# Concordia Theological Monthly

Vol. X

g

NOVEMBER, 1939

No. 11

### The Roman Doctrine of the Lord's Supper

There are evident traces of Neoplatonism<sup>1)</sup> in Roman theology, especially in the doctrines concerning man and the sacraments. The majority of Roman theologians make a careful distinction between the spiritual, as the higher, and the material, as the lower, nature in man. Soul and body belong to two different spheres, the soul being inclined to the spiritual, the body to the sensual, the world of sense. The rational soul, created by God in the moment of conception, is united with the totally heterogeneous body, and this junction of the two dissimilar natures results, according to Bellarmine, in pugna quaedam and in ingens difficultas bene agendi. The warfare between the spiritual and sensual natures is present in man before the Fall, and without the donum superadditum the soul would have been unable to return to God. This view explains Rome's interest in asceticism and mysticism. The flesh as the seat of concupiscence, i.e., the interest in the world

<sup>1)</sup> Neoplatonism as developed by Plotinus in the third century is an attempt to explain the relation of the One to the many in such a way that the spiritual unity of the universe could be maintained. This Greek philosophy assumed that there is a series of gradations between God on the one hand and Matter on the other. Similar to Gnosticism, it maintained that God overflows in emanations, such as Intelligence (vovs), the World-soul (ψυχή), and the final grade, Matter. Being farthest removed from God, Matter, or the world of sense, is evil. When the individual soul is united with Matter, it forgets its divine origin and is interested only in the world of sense. Neoplatonism therefore endeavored to show a way in which this dualistic or pluralistic universe could end in monism. Asceticism and mysticism were viewed as the best means of bringing about the reunion of the soul with its divine origin. Porphyry and Plotinus viewed the human body as a garment which burdened and defiled man or as a prison from which the soul must seek escape. Origen (d. 254) transmuted the contents of the faith of the Greek Church into ideas permeated with Neoplatonism. There is no doubt that Augustine's early contacts with Neoplatonism deeply affected and to some extent determined his concepts of sin, grace (gratia infusa), and justification. Seeberg, Dogmengeschichte3, II, 406; 550 ff.

of sense, must be weakened by fasting, watching, celibacy, etc., in order that the soul in the full exercise of its wonderful powers may unite itself with God.<sup>2)</sup> Extreme mystics, like Theresa of Spain, believed that the soul when divorced from the sensual could enter into direct union and communion with God.

This dualism manifests itself also in the Roman doctrine concerning the sacraments, and particularly the Lord's Supper. According to the Catechism of the Council of Trent "man, as a being belonging to the world of sense, stands in need of a sensible type to obtain and to preserve the consciousness of what passes in his supersensual part. . . . If man were a pure spirit, then would the divine powers, which produce justice and holiness, require no sensible medium." The Catholic theologian J. A. Moehler states: "To this inferior order of things (the world of sense) the Church opposes a higher order, not to annihilate the former but to bestow on it the blessings of redemption, to explain its significance, and to purify by heavenly influences all the stages of earthly and sinful existence. . . . Symbolical signs bring the higher world more immediately within the perception of sense and withal convey from that world the capacity for its influence."3) Rome's approach to the sacraments is fundamentally different from that of Scripture and Lutheran theology. Whether we emphasize Rome's Neoplatonism or sacerdotalism or sacramentalism (opus operatum) or mysticism (elements of superstition), the fundamental error of Rome will always come to the surface, namely, the doctrine of work-righteousness. This was pointed out in a previous article of this series.4) Virtually all the distinctive elements of Roman theology, such as rationalism, sacerdotalism, sacramentalism, mysticism, are evident in the center and heart of the Roman worship and cultus, in the Lord's Supper, or the Holy Eucharist, as it is usually called by Roman dogmaticians. The works of dogmatics 5) present this doctrine under three headings: 1. the Real Presence; 2. the Eucharist as a sacrament (Communion); 3. the Eucharist as a sacrifice (Mass).

2) Walther, Lehrbuch der Symbolik, 57 f.; 150 ff.

4) C. T. M., 1939, pp. 241-250.

<sup>3)</sup> Symbolism or Doctrinal Differences between Catholics and Protestants, p.  $203 \; \mathrm{ff.}$ 

<sup>5)</sup> The following Roman Catholic sources were consulted: Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent, Waterworth ed.; Pohle-Preuss, Series of Dogmatic Text-books, 1930, Vol. IX; Wilmers, Lehrbuch der Religion, Vol. IV, 375—576; Catholic Encyclopedia, s.v. "Eucharist" and "Mass"; Catechismus Romanus; Jean de Puniet, The Mass (translated by Benedictines of Stanbrook, 1930); M. Cochem, Erklaerung des Mess-Kanon. Naturally the reader's attention is directed to Luther's masterful treatises against the Roman Mass and to Melanchthon's Apology, Articles XXII and XXIV.

I

1. Neoplatonism causes the Roman "doctors" considerable difficulty in the doctrine of the Real Presence. Because of the Neoplatonic background Roman theology places a low estimate not only upon human nature in general, but also upon the human nature of Christ. Christ's humanity does not receive latreia but only hyperdulia, the same worship accorded to Mary. Like the Reformed, Rome believes that the human nature of Christ also after His ascension is limited to a specific place in heaven.<sup>6)</sup> Rome can accept only a praesentia localis for the human nature of Christ. And still Rome teaches the Real Presence, for Trent has declared: "If any one denieth that in the sacrament of the most holy Eucharist are contained truly, really, and substantially the body and blood together with the soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and consequently the whole Christ, but saith that He is only therein as in a sign or in a figure or virtue, let him be anathema."7) Rome has solved the apparent contradiction between the axiom: Finitum non est capax infiniti and the Real Presence by positing a local presence of Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper. And such a local presence is conditioned upon Rome's theory of transubstantiation, the keystone of its entire doctrine of the Eucharist.

Roman dogmaticians insist that transubstantiation is not an accidental change, such as occurs when a wax figure is changed from a ball to a cube, nor a material conversion, as when wood is changed to ashes; for in the one only the accidents are changed, the substance remaining the same, and in the other the matter

<sup>6)</sup> In the paragraph on Christ's session Wilmers says: "Da die menschliche Natur ueberhaupt sich an allen Orten nicht befindet, so ist auch keine Ursache vorhanden, der Menschheit Christi die Allgegenwart zuzuschreiben. . . . Der an und fuer sich beschraenkten Menschheit nach wird der Leib Christi ebensowohl von einem Raum umschlossen als jeder andere Leib." (Lehrbuch der Religion, II, 339 f.) Over against Luther's position that the Real Presence is possible because of the communicated omnipresence, Wilmers states: "Luther beachtete nicht, dass die Schrift ausdruecklich lehrt, . . . dass Christus als Mensch . . . sich bei seiner Auffahrt gen Himmel von der Erde ueberhaupt entfernt, was offenbar gegen die Alloertlichkeit ist." (L. c., IV, 380, N.) Pohle-Preuss review the arguments which Roman theologians since the days of the "Angelic Doctor," Aquinas, have advanced to explain philosophically the apparent contradiction. They say that multilocation does not multiply the object, but only affects its external relation to and presence in space. They speak of a continuous, discontinuous, mixed, and circumscriptive multilocation — all miraculous, of course, but making it possible from a rational viewpoint for "Christ with His natural dimensions to reign in heaven, whence He does not depart, and at the same time to dwell in sacramental presence on numberless altars throughout the world." (L. c., 175—184. Cf. Popular Symbolics, p. 159.)

<sup>7)</sup> Council of Trent, Sess. XIII, Can. I. The doctrines of Zwingli, Oecolampadius, and Calvin respectively are condemned in this canon.

804

remains the same. Rome argues for such a conversion where the substances of bread and wine (i.e., the elements which actually make bread bread and wine wine) cease to exist in order to make room for the body and blood of Christ. All that remains of the bread and wine are their accidents, such as color, taste, smell, form. Trent defines the doctrine as follows: "By the consecration of bread and wine a conversion is made of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ, and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of His blood; which conversion is by the Holy Catholic Church suitably and properly called transubstantiation."8) The theologians are not agreed as to the manner in which the body and the blood enter into the species of bread and wine. According to the Thomists the glorified body of Christ is reproduced in such a way that the change "has something in common with creation and transmutation." Transubstantiation is virtually both an annihilation and creation, and the only reason why it does not actually create the body of Christ is that the body already exists. Bellarmine explains transubstantiation as a conversion which does not cause the body to begin to exist, but to begin to exist under the species of bread and wine. While the theologians today usually avoid the term "creation," they nevertheless believe that "the power inherent in the words of consecration is so great that, if the substance of the Eucharistic body did not already exist, these words would as surely call it into being, as the fiat of the Almighty created the universe."9) This is tantamount to claiming for the priesthood the power of the creature over the Creator.

<sup>8)</sup> Sess. XIII, Can. 4. Pohle-Preuss offers the following explanation of the decree according to Aristotelian dialectics: "In the Holy Eucharist we have a true conversion. There are, first, the two extremes of bread and wine as the terminus a quo and the body and blood of Christ as the terminus ad quem. There is, secondly, an intimate connection between the cessation of the one extreme and the appearance of the other, in that both events result not from two independent processes (e.g., annihilation and creation) but from one single act. At the words of consecration the substance of the bread vanishes to make room for the body and blood of Christ. Lastly, there is a commune tertium in the unchanged appearances of the terminus a quo. Christ, in assuming a new mode of being, retains these appearances in order to enable us to partake of His body and blood. The terminus totalis a quo is not annihilated, because the appearances of bread and wine continue. What disappears is the substance of bread and wine, which constitutes the terminus formalis a quo. Nor can the terminus totalis ad quem be said to be newly created, because the body and blood of Christ, and in fact the whole Christ, as terminus formalis ad quem, preexist both in His divinity (from eternity) and in His humanity (since the Incarnation). What begins to exist anew in the terminus ad quem is not our Lord as such, but merely a sacramental mode of being, in other words, the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ." (P.109.)

Pohle-Preuss, I. c., 127. See also Tract No. 30, Our Sunday Visitor Press. Lutheraner, 79, 129.

Rome believes that the charge of sarcophagy (eating of flesh) would be in place if any one asserted that in the Eucharist merely the flesh and the blood of Christ were received. Rome admits that by virtue of the words of consecration only the body and the blood are present, but claims that by reason of a natural concomitance there is simultaneously present all which is physically inseparable from the body and the blood, namely, the soul and the humanity of Christ and, by virtue of the personal union, also His divinity. Christ, whole and entire, with His flesh and blood, His body and soul, His deity and humanity, is present. 10) The same argument is used to establish the concomitance theory, namely, that Christ whole and entire is received under either species and that as much is contained under either species as under both."11) Not only is the entire Christ present under each of the species, but also under each and every particle of each species. Of course, the opinions differ as to the manner of the presence. Some believe that the body of Christ is present even before the division as many times as the host can be divided into separate particles; others say that, as an unbroken mirror reproduces one reflection, the broken mirror as many complete reflections as there are fragments, so also the body of Christ is present whole and entire under each fragment of the host.

Transubstantiation is the starting-point for Romanists in the doctrine of the Eucharist. The doctrine of the Real Presence is contained in this theory, but it does not follow for Romanists that transubstantiation is contained in the dogma of the Real Presence. The Real Presence is possible—also according to Romanists—with consubstantiation (the view which Luther was supposed to

<sup>10)</sup> Council of Trent, Sess. XIII, Chap. III and Can. I, Pohle-Preuss, l.c., 88 ff. Roman theologians enjoy speculation. What would disciples have received had they celebrated the Lord's Supper while Christ was in the grave? Answer: His body as it then existed, namely, separated from His soul, though not from His deity. Wilmers, l.c., IV, 458, N., and other sources.

<sup>11)</sup> Rome's Scriptural argument: In 1 Cor. 11:27, 29 both the disjunctive and copulative conjunctions (or—and) are used. The same guilt attaches to unworthy eating and drinking whether one receives bread and wine or only the bread or the wine. A person cannot be guilty of the blood when partaking only of the bread unless both, body and blood, are present under the bread. This is but another example of Rome's arbitrary use of Scripture. The Bible is only pretext, and rationalistic argumentation is the deciding factor. Rome admits that by virtue of the words of consecration the body is present only under the bread and the blood only under the wine, but claims that the law of concomitance will not allow the glorified body to be without blood nor the living body without His soul nor the sacred humanity without the Logos. Therefore Christ whole and entire is present under the host as well as under the chalice. Pohle-Preuss, 94, 109. Trent, Sess. XIII, Chap, III.

have held) or impanation. But Rome insists on transubstantiation. As a result of Rome's theory the substantial body and blood of Christ are present in the Eucharist before, in, and after the use. 12) This raises the problem for Roman theologians as to what happens to the body and blood in the Eucharist in case the species are destroyed by fire, mold, evaporation. The accepted answer is as follows: The body and blood is present under the appearances of bread and wine as long as these are really appearances and ordinarily apt and capable to contain the substance of bread and wine. When corruption sets in, Christ is no longer present. But the cessation of the Real Presence is not viewed as "retransubstantiation." Thus the physicist's argument that Rome's theory of transubstantiation is contrary to the law of physics is met by the dogmaticians' dictum: "The miracle of the Eucharistic conversion does not abolish the law of the indestructibility of matter."13) Is it any wonder that in view of such speculations the indifferent Romanist approaches the Eucharist mechanically and disinterestedly and the conscientious member will be harassed by doubts and questions as he approaches the Eucharist?

2. The fundamental difference between Roman and Lutheran theology in method and approach is apparent when one studies the arguments which Rome advances for its theory of transubstantation. It is evident that Rome's theory is a preconceived notion which is superimposed on Scriptures. 14) The "Scriptural" argument for transubstantiation is taken from John 6:52 ff. Among several Roman reasons why the words "flesh" and "blood" should be taken literally, only one need to be mentioned, viz.: "If we take the manna of the desert (v. 49 ff.) as a type of the Eucharist, we can argue as follows: Assuming that the Eucharist contained merely consecrated bread and wine, . . . the original

<sup>12)</sup> Trent, Sess. XIII, Can. IV.—The Lutheran John Saliger in his polemics against the Crypto-Calvinists maintained that by virtue of the consecration the body is present also ante usum. This prompted the framers of the Formula of Concord to show the necessity of consecration, both over against the Reformed who underestimate the importance of it, and the Romanizing tendencies which attach miraculous powers to it. Article VII, Trigl., 998 f.

<sup>13)</sup> Pohle-Preuss, l. c., 133—135. Wilmers, l. c., 434 f. The theory of the permanence of the body and blood in the Eucharist has given rise to superstitious and pagan practises, e.g., signing the sentence of a heretic with ink into which "Christ's blood" had been poured; placing the species into corner-stones of churches; pulverizing or toasting the host in order to preserve it. The "Mass of the presanctified" belongs into the category of superstitious practises. Since no Mass is to be said on Good Friday, the host which was consecrated on the day previous (hence "presanctified") "is placed on the altar, incensed, elevated, and consumed by the celebrant." Cath. Encl., VI, 644.

 <sup>&</sup>quot;Romanism, Calvinism, Lutheranism, on Authority of Bible,"
 T. M., VIII, 260.

would not excel the type by which it was prefigured. But St. Paul teaches that the original must transcend its type in the same way in which a body excels its shadow, and consequently the Eucharist contains more than mere bread and wine."15) Are the Roman doctors ready to say on the basis of vv. 54, 56, 58 that every one who attends Communion shall live forever? - Rome's arguments for the theory of transubstantiation from the words of institution and from tradition are well known and shall be omitted in this paper. (Wilmers has 20 pages of 9-point-solid type on testimonies from tradition for this doctrine.) The clinching argument for the Romanist is the fact that the Church has spoken through the Council of Trent, and the dogmaticians can do no more than show from reason that the doctrine is probable, proper, reasonable, and according to the "analogy of faith." Here are two samples. (a) The Old Testament was a type of the New. In the Old Testament the presence of God was indicated through the Ark of the Covenant. The peculiar presence of God among Israel must be fulfilled in richer form in the New Testament. The Incarnation was a partial fulfilment of the Old Testament type, but it was only temporary, and therefore the presence of Christ in the Eucharist is necessary if the type is to have its complete original. (b) Essentially Christianity is the religion of love. Love manifests itself in a desire to associate with those whom one loves. There is a desire both on the part of God and of man to be near each other. This is possible in the Eucharist. But in order to exercise man's faith, Christ does not come in His real form nor forever, but under the species of bread and wine. 16) Rome's theology is still the theology of Scholasticism. This becomes apparent in the manner in which the theologians endeavor to answer the objections against transubstantiation. We ask: How can the outward appearances of bread and wine exist without the substances? Rome is ready to answer this, first, "with the certainty of faith," secondly, "with theological certainty only," and, thirdly, as "a matter of speculation." Faith answers that a miracle takes place; theology debates whether the appearances are physical entities or subjective impressions (optical illusions), the former opinion finding most adherents today; and philosophical speculation enters the labora-

<sup>15)</sup> Pohle-Preuss, l. c., 15. Wilmers, l. c., 382.

<sup>16)</sup> Wilmers, l. c., 415 ff. After quoting from Thomas Aquinas, the author adds significantly: "Das sind Gruende, die der einfache Glaeubige mehr mit dem Gefuehle als mit dem Verstande erfasst, und vielleicht haben wir es diesem richtigen, wenn auch dunklen, Ahnen teilweise zuzuschreiben, dass der Glaube an die wirkliche Gegenwart auch bei den verkommensten Sekten des Orients sich erhalten hat." Rome need not be surprised when we charge it with false enthusiasm (Schwaermerei) and definite elements of paganism, particularly idolatry. Walther, "Lehrbuch der Symbolik," 166—170.

tory and tells us that accidents (e.g., quantity) can be removed from the substance; after all, how little do we know about matter? are the scientists not compelled to discard one theory after another?—Rome's theology is a theology of speculation, of doubt, certainly not the theology of God's Word.<sup>17)</sup>

3. The implications of this theory are of far-reaching importance for the Romanists. Claiming to be the possessor of the physical presence of Christ, the Roman Church claims to be the only legitimate Church. The avowed purpose of Catholic Action is to "bring Christ physically into the world." In private, nuptial, requiem, and public Masses the priest brings the physical Christ into the lives of his people, and they, in turn, by promoting Eucharistic devotion among other men make the entry of Christ into human lives more general<sup>18)</sup> The second significant implication of the transubstantiation theory is the idolatrous adoration of the host. For the Romanist the "adorableness" of the Eucharist is self-evident, "for the Eucharistic Christ is identical with the Lord who sitteth at the right hand of God." Rome is frank to admit that "in the absence of Scriptural proof this proposition must be demonstrated from tradition." 19) What do Romanists actually worship in the Eucharist? Defending itself against the charge of artolatreia (in other words, idolatry), Rome claims that there can be no worship of the bread because the bread has ceased to exist. At the same time Rome admits that the adoration extends both to Christ and to the appearances, and does not hesitate to say: "The adoration which Catholics give to Christ under the appearances of bread and wine is not separate and distinct from that which they give to the sacred species as such. . . . We give no separate adoration to the accidents. The object of our adoration is the totum sacramentale. . . . In practise neither the Church nor the faithful pay any attention to this subtle distinction" (between the Eucharistic Christ and the species).<sup>20)</sup> When we tell our confirmands that Rome practises gross idolatry, we are not overstating the case, for three reasons. (a) Rome expressly teaches that the Eucharistic Christ is entitled to latreia (the worship due to God alone), but the species not being a part of the hypostatic union, only to hyperdulia. In spite of all technical distinctions between latreia and dulia, a practical difference is not observed. Why does the canon law prescribe minutely the care and the cult of

<sup>17)</sup> Pohle-Preuss devotes 41 pages to the chapter "Speculative Discussion of the Mystery of the Real Presence, l. c., 143—184.

<sup>18)</sup> Confrey, Catholic Action, 59 ff. Daniel Lord, Call to Catholic Action, 20 ff. (Tract published by Queen's Work, St. Louis.)

<sup>19)</sup> Trent, Sess. XIII, Canons 5 and 6. Pohle-Preuss, 136 f.

<sup>20)</sup> Pohle-Preuss, l. c., 141.

the most holy Eucharist? Why must the altar in which the host is preserved be especially ornated? Why dare the sanctuary lamp never be extinguished? Why can only a cleric touch the monstrance, the vessel on which the consecrated host is exposed to view? Why do Romanists praise Franz Xavier for spending entire nights before the "tabernacle" to commune with the "physically present" Christ?—(b) The theory of transubstantiation, specifically the permanence of the Real Presence, is nothing but superstition.—(c) There is no command to adore the species with hyperdulia, dulia, or any other kind of veneration.<sup>21)</sup>

Opportunity to bring the "physical Christ" into the lives of the people and to worship the species are amply provided in the Roman cultus. There is the elevation of the sacrament immediately after consecration; there is the exposition of the sacrament providing an opportunity to "look upon and to salute the body of Christ"; there are societies for the Perpetual Adoration, so that somewhere throughout the world at all times some one is rendering adoration to the species, an honor which according to Rome belongs to God alone; there is the Corpus Christi Festival with its pomp and superstitious practises, 22) the Eucharistic congresses, the Forty Hour devotions, the Devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. And the purpose of these exercises is to "keep alive an ardent and devout faith in Him who said: 'Behold I am with you alway.' "23)

#### TT

Rome views the Eucharist both as a sacrament and as a sacrifice. Some dogmaticians discuss the sacrificial character of the Eucharist first, because the Mass is seemingly the more important feature of the Eucharist. Wilmers, for example, discusses the communion after the Mass because according to the example of the Old Testament peace-offerings the partaking of the offering naturally

<sup>21)</sup> When advancing this reason, be prepared for the following sphism: The will (i.e., command) to be eaten and drunk does not contradict the will to be adored. Christ lay in the manger for the purpose of resting. But the Magi did not conclude that the purpose of being worshiped was excluded. Christ journeyed through Palestine to preach. But it did not follow that those who recognized Him as the Son of God were forbidden to worship Him. Wilmers, L. c., IV, 465.

<sup>22)</sup> Celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity. The German word Fronleichnamsfest is derived from fron, master. The purpose is avowedly to prepare a royal entry for Christ and, by taking the host into the open, to proclaim Christ as King of creation and to make the entire nature a temple of God. It is furthermore a testimony of the faith against heretics, especially against Berengar of Tours (1050), who held to a symbolical interpretation of the sacrament. And lastly it is viewed as a satisfaction for all the indignities inflicted on the Eucharistic Christ. (Wilmers, I. c., 467.)

<sup>23)</sup> Pohle-Preuss, l.c., 140.

follows the sacrificial act. Other theologians give more importance to the sacramental character of the Eucharist than Wilmers's view appears to do.<sup>24)</sup> We shall discuss the Roman view of the Eucharist as a sacrament first. According to its Neoplatonic background Rome views man as spiritual and sensual. In striving for the spiritual things, man requires sensory means, such as the visible teaching office as constituted in the clergy, the imposing cathedrals or the churches on prominent corners and elevated plots of ground, and especially the Eucharist, a "symbol of a sacred thing, the visible form of an invisible grace." The communion fulfils the soul's desire "to partake of the heavenly grace by the material food" and to seek "in the visible creation a ladder to heaven." <sup>25)</sup>

1. Rome's approach to the definition of the Sacrament of the Altar is so basically different from that of the Lutheran that Rome's terminology is rather confusing to the Lutheran. Deharbe defines the essence of the Eucharist thus: "The Holy Eucharist is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is really and substantially present under the appearances of bread and wine for the nourishment of our souls." The Catechismus Romanus states that the consecration, which is a sacrificial act, and the communion. which is only the reception of an already existing sacrament, do not, properly speaking, belong to the essence of the Eucharist as sacrament. This catechism does not approve Augustine's definition that the sacrament consists in the visible elements and the invisible body and blood of Christ, but claims that the sacramental essence is rather the species of bread and wine. The majority seem to define the sacrament of the Eucharist as consisting in the union of the Eucharistic species and the body and blood of Christ as the matter and in the words of consecration as the form of the sacrament. It seems, that this definition emphasizes the Eucharist as a sacrifice more than as a sacrament. And the fact is that Rome is interested almost entirely in the sacrificial character of the Eucharist. This is evident also in the withholding of the cup.<sup>26)</sup>

<sup>24)</sup> The distinction between a sacrament and a sacrifice are clearly set forth by Melanchthon in the Apology, Art. XXIV.

<sup>25)</sup> Wilmers, l.c., 574, 548.

<sup>26)</sup> The usual arguments are fairly well known: By the law of concomitance blood is present under the bread.—There is no additional benefit in receiving the wine after having received the bread.—There is no command to receive both kinds.—Acts 2:42, "breaking of bread."—Mother Church, fully conscious of her authority, has so ordered it.—"Blood" might be spilled.—Great difficulty to preserve the remaining "blood" under the species of wine.—Pope Gelasius ordered the laity to use the chalice to unmask the uncoverted Manicheans, who would not touch wine. Before this decree there must have been communion under one kind.—The sacrament is a symbol of spiritual nourishment and either species accomplishes this.

When Rome is asked why Christ ordained two elements if one is sufficient, its answer runs about as follows: The two species are indeed instituted by Christ and therefore must be used. But the use of both kinds need not be observed in the Eucharist as communion. The use of both kinds is essential for the Eucharist as a sacrifice, i.e., in the Mass, and the main purpose of the Eucharist is a sacrifice, not a supper. In every sacrifice there must be a real slaying of the victim. The "unbloody" sacrifice of the Mass is effected when, by virtue of the consecration, "a two-edged mystical sword," the priest separates the body and the blood of Christ under the elements of bread and wine.27) Rome speaks of the Eucharist as a sacrament, and we would expect them to stress the communion as a means of grace, but this concept seems to be very remote in Rome's thinking. Communion is not so much a means whereby God conveys "grace" to the sinner but rather a fulfilling of an obligation, which the faithful must perform at least once a year, when they make their Easter communion. In short, the idea of a sacrifice, at least a eucharistic sacrifice, is more predominant than that of a sacrament.

2. The effects of the sacrament are defined by Trent chiefly negatively, namely, "that the principal fruit of the most holy Eucharist is not the remission of sins." The dogmaticians usually list two effects. First, the union of the soul with Christ. The physical consumption of the host effects a sacramental union, and this results ex opere operato in a mystical union through the "theological" (?) virtue of love. At the same time communion establishes a bond of charity between the faithful. Since communion is a sacrament only for those who are already united with Christ, who are under grace and have remission of sins, it can only increase sanctifying grace, that is convey powers to avoid sin and to perform good works. The second effect is nourishment for the soul, an antidote whereby we may be free from daily faults and preserved from mortal sins.28) Frequent, if not even daily, communions are recommended to subdue the flesh and overcome concupiscense, the source of mortal sin. Roman theologians have debated whether the Eucharist is directly conducive to the remission of the punishments due to sin, as is the case in Penance. The opinion seems to prevail that the fruits of communion may be viewed as a satisfaction for sin, yes, that these fruits may even be applied to others, especially the souls in purgatory.29) Being an effective prophylactic against mortal sins, the purpose of communion is, finally, a pledge of the body's resurrection on the

<sup>27)</sup> Pohle-Preuss, l. c., p. 347.

<sup>28)</sup> Trent, Sess. XIII, cap. 2.

<sup>29)</sup> Pohle-Preuss, l. c., p. 231.

basis of John 6:55. By its contact with the Eucharistic Christ the body has a moral right to the future resurrection. $^{30)}$ 

As to the necessary preparation for communion virtually all the requirements are negative, e.g., abstaining from food (the regulations are of such a nature that only doubt and uncertainty can arise), not living in mortal sin, not placing an obex (hindrance) in the way of worthy communion.

In spite of the resolution of Trent and especially of the encyclical of Pius X which admonishes the people to commune frequently, the general rule seems to be that the Eucharist as communion is treated rather disparagingly, while the Eucharist as a sacrifice seems to be the all-important thing. Even the Pope, when celebrating Mass at high festivals, communes only himself and his two assistants, not the assembled cardinals. Though communion and mass are observed in the same service, there is a vast difference between the two, some dogmaticians even treating the mass separately in a different connection. As a sacrament the Eucharist is permanent, since the Real Presence continues after communion; as a sacrifice it is a transient action. As a sacrament it can be effected by the consecration of one element; the mass requires two. In the sacrament "sanctifying grace" is conveyed to the sinner; in the mass, man brings an offering to God.

#### Ш

1) The mass is the heart and center of Roman worship. Campegius stated at Augsburg in 1530 that he would rather be torn into pieces than give up the mass.<sup>32)</sup> Without the mass Rome actually would cease to be Rome. In the mass the material principle of Rome, the doctrine of work-righteousness, finds full and complete expression. Roman dogmaticians prove the necessity of a sacrifice, i. e., the duty of man to bring an offering to God, by claiming that man stands in a threefold relation of obligation to God. (a) As a creature of soul and body, man owes God mental and physical adoration. The latter particularly is possible only through a physical sacrifice (sacrificia latreutica); (b) as a sinner

<sup>30)</sup> Pohle-Preuss, l.c., pp. 218—234; Wilmers, l.c., pp. 548—576. Rome's Neoplatonism comes to the surface in this entire discussion, for some dogmaticians have gone so far as to speak of a "conversion of the human flesh into that of the God-man." There is a vast difference between Rome's view and that expressed by Luther, viz., that the mouth which orally receives Christ does not know what the heart receives. The mouth must live on account of the heart which will live through the word. (Cp. St. L., XX, 830—837 f.: Large Catechism, Trigl., 768, §68 and 742, §45.)

<sup>31)</sup> Hase, Protestantische Polemik, p. 487.

<sup>32)</sup> Smalcald Articles, Trigl., 464, § 10.

before the Judge, he must appease God's wrath (propitiatoria); (c) as the recipient of many blessings, man has the twofold duty of thanking God for past favors and imploring Him for future help (sacrificia eucharistica et impetraria). According to Rome a sacrifice is absolutely necessary if man is to express in a physical way his various obligations to God. (Neoplatonism!) Reason tells the Romanist that Christianity requires a sacrifice; for if it had none, it would be inferior to the Mosaic religion, in fact, to all pre-Christian ethnic religions.<sup>33)</sup> Rome, of course, seeks Scripture proof and therefore, as Melanchthon somewhere says, consulted the concordance s. v. "sacrifice." The Roman Confutation of 1530 contains a fair sample of Rome's exegetical maneuvers. Melanchthon not only refuted Rome's misinterpretation of such passages as Mal. 1:10; 3:3; Ps. 110:4; Heb. 5:1; Dan. 12:11 (daily sacrifice), but also showed the fallacy of Rome's entire argument in favor of a sacrifice.34)

2) Satisfied that it has established the necessity of a sacrifice, Rome next sets out to demonstrate that the mass, not Christ's death upon the cross, is the real sacrifice. Rome adduces three arguments in its contention that the mass is the sacrifice: (a) the words of institution "Given and shed for you" (ἐκχυννόμενον, pres. part.) refer not to the sacrifice on the cross, but to the sacrifice he was then and there offering in the Last Supper;<sup>35)</sup> (b) the argument from prescription (in law prescription denotes acquisition of rights in property by possession for a certain period): "The Church's legitimate possession as regards the mass can be traced back to the beginning of Christianity. It follows that the mass was instituted by Christ." Naturally the Romanists make every effort to show that the early communion liturgies contain the consecration, which

<sup>33)</sup> The professors of the Christian faith, in order to be able to satisfy their duty of worshiping God, must have a permanent sacrifice just as well as the Old Testament Jews. This craving of the heart, which has deeply imbedded itself in all religions, is not satisfied by the sacrifice of the cross, since that was offered "once for all" and in one place only. The Catholic Church, being "the mystical Christ," must have a sacrifice of her own, because otherwise she could not fulfil her duty of worshiping God in the most perfect manner possible. Pohle-Preuss, p. 293. This is the old standard argument repeated with monotonous regularity since the days of Thomas, advanced with great fervor by Eck against the Augustana; cp. Plitt, Einleitung, II, 460. Cp. also Wilmers, l. c., 488. Soederblom asks: "Why does the mass attract so many even outside Catholicism?" and answers: "The religious idea behind it. God has a share in our suffering." Christian Fellowship, pp. 146—148.

<sup>34)</sup> Trigl., 388, § 16-24; 31-40; 52-59. The Confutation is reprinted in Luther, St. L., XVI, 1048.

<sup>35)</sup> Strange, the Vulgate uses the future fundetur, though Pohle-Preuss calls attention to some codices using the present tense funditur, p. 308.

according to Rome is the real essence of the sacrifice. Thus, Rome claims to have been in possession of the mass as a sacrifice since the days of Christ; (c) the argument from tradition. Rome's misuse of the Church Fathers is well known, and every statement must be examined carefully in its context.

Is Rome really in earnest when it claims that the Eucharist is truly a sacrifice? The popular treatises on the mass impress upon the people that for the celebration of the mass an altar or at least an altar stone is necessary, that the crucifix must be erected, because "the sacrifice of the mass is the same as that offered on Calvary."36) All dogmaticians claim that in essence there is no difference between the offering on the cross and the sacrifice of the mass, for in each Christ is both Priest and Victim. The difference between the two consists only in the manner of the sacrifice, the one being bloody and the other unbloody, for Christ cannot die again. A twofold shedding of blood is possible in a sacrifice, the real and the sacramental. The former took place on Calvary; the latter occurs when the priest through the "two-edged mystic sword" of the words of consecration separates the blood from the body.37) The consecration is the real sacrificial act, not the breaking of the bread, for this affects only the species; nor the communion of the priest. Bellarmine saw in the communion the destruction of the sacrificial victim. The communion, however, belongs to the integrity of the mass, for every sacrifice is followed by a sacrificial banquet. Many questions are discussed, and no fewer than seven theories are advanced concerning the metaphysical essence of the mass. Is there a real slaying of Christ, or is the double consecration only a represen-

<sup>36)</sup> Ceremonies of the Mass, Paulist Press, 407 West 59th St., New York.

<sup>37) &</sup>quot;Das Opfer wird ueberhaupt durch jene Handlung vollzogen, durch welche der zu opfernde Gegenstand zerstoert wird oder Veraenderung zulaesst. Das aber geschieht im gegenwaertigen Falle durch die Konsekration: durch sie wird am Heilande selbst auf geheimnisvolle Weise eine Veraenderung, eine Zerstoerung bewirkt, durch welche die am Kreuze in seinem Leibe selbst vollzogene vergegenwaertigt wird. Kraft der Worte oder des Wortlautes wird unter der Gestalt des Brotes nur der Leib und unter der des Weines nur das Blut Christi gegenwaertig. Das Wort des Priesters ist demnach das geistige Schwert, wodurch das Osterlamm auf geheimnisvolle Weise geschlachtet wird." Wilmers, I.c., 541. "Since it was no mere death from suffocation that Jesus suffered, but a bloody death, in which His veins were emptied of their blood, this condition of separation must receive visible representation on the altar. This condition is fulfilled only by the double consecration, which brings before our eyes the body and blood in the state of separation and thus represents the mystical shedding of the blood. It is this consideration that suggested to the Fathers the idea, which was adopted into some liturgies, of the double consecration as a two-edged 'mystical sword.'" Pohle-Preuss, p. 347.

tative, a dramatic repetition of the slaying of Christ? Does the sacrificial act culminate in a *kenosis*, a real self-abasement or in glorification? If it is a *kenosis*, how does the impassibility of the transfigured Lord permit His body and blood to be reduced to the condition of food and thus be placed at the mercy of mankind? Does the glorified Lord experience an actual suffering?<sup>38)</sup>

3. The benefits of the mass are said to be virtually unlimited. Cochem lists 77 graces and fruits which result from a pious hearing of the mass.39) In accordance with the threefold sacrifice which man is obligated to render unto God, the mass has a threefold effect. First, it is the best means whereby man can render to God the honor which is due Him, for the mass is the very center of Roman worship. Hearing the Word cannot compare with hearing the mass, for in the mass "heaven bows down to earth." The second and chief effect of the mass is that it removes the temporal punishment due to sin. In practise this means that the mass takes sin away and placates God. 40) This is thoroughly unevangelical, vea, pagan. Of course, Rome claims that it does not invalidate the death of Christ; for do they not "apply the merits of Christ through the mass to the individual"? But there is no appropriation on the part of the faithful, the benefits are applied to him, i.e., the "application" is nothing more than the intention of the priest to convey specific blessings to a designated person or persons, present or absent, living or dead, Catholic or non-Catholic. There is no faith which appropriates the merits of Christ. The third effect of the mass is said to consist in temporal blessings. Masses may be ordered for every possible contingency and condition in life, for success in business, for health, for gaining of friends; nor is it necessary to mention to the priest the purpose for which the mass is ordered.

And Rome makes it so easy to obtain these blessings. Everything is left to the priest. The mass is efficacious ex opere operato and will work its effects upon those present, unless a person is in mortal sin, laughs, whispers, jokes, disturbs others, or sleeps volun-

<sup>38)</sup> Pohle-Preuss, p. 349-370.

<sup>39)</sup> Martin v. Cochem, Erklaerung des heiligen Messopfers, 106 ff. Examples: Christ's blood cries for you with as many words as drops of blood flowed from His body.—As often as you piously look upon the host, you merit a special reward in heaven.—Through every mass you earn for yourself the "grace" of a blessed death.—Hearing of the mass will avert misfortune and bring temporal blessings.

<sup>40)</sup> Trent: "This sacrifice (of the mass) is truly propitiatory.... For the Lord, appeased by the oblation thereof and granting the grace and gift of penitence, forgives even heinous crimes and sins... Wherefore not only for the sins, punishments, satisfactions, and other necessities of the faithful who are living, but also for those who are departed in Christ, and who are not as yet fully purified, is it rightly offered, agreeably to a tradition of the apostles." Sess. XXII, Chap. II.

tarily (?) during mass. The opus operatum becomes patent especially in private masses. Since the priest is the only acting person, no congregation is required. As long as he reads the official text in the church language correctly, performs the 500 ceremonies and observes the 400 rubrics (none of which dare be omitted without committing mortal sin), the mass will accomplish the effect for which it is read. And yet Rome is careful not to make it too easy. The majority of theologians are agreed that "the satisfactory value of a mass is so strictly circumscribed and limited from the outset that it (the satisfactory value) accrues pro rata (according to a greater or less number of individuals for whom the sacrifice is offered) to each of the individual beneficiaries." What serious doubts must this theory raise if it is really brought to the attention of the people! The ex-opere-operato theory is modified. furthermore, by the theologians when they say that the effects of the mass are conditioned also by the disposition of the participant (ex opere operantis). The individuals hearing mass are benefited in proportion to their personal devotion, yes, also the personal piety of the celebrant. Cardinal De Lugo goes so far as to say that the "value of the mass is dependent on the greater or lesser holiness of the reigning Pope, the bishops, and the clergy throughout the world," including even the Church in her members.41) Space forbids enumerating the "numerous vermin brood of manifold idolatries which the dragon tail (mass) has begotten." (Luther.) He was thinking of the stipends; of private masses, especially at renowned shrines where the orders for masses far exceed the facilities to read them all; of the magical powers ascribed to the mass vestments, etc.

There can be no appeasement as long as Rome clings to its doctrine of the Eucharist, and no Romanist will ever give up the mass. "Therefore we are and remain forever separate and opposed to each other." 42)

F. E. MAYER

## Rleine Prophetenstudien

#### Die meffianische Beisfagung Joels

Luther gibt in seiner berühmten "Borrebe auf das Alte Testament" eine "kurze Anleitung, Christum und das Evangelium zu suchen im Alten Testament".<sup>1)</sup> Er sagt in seiner ebensalls berühmten "Borrebe auf die Propheten", daß wir "diese mit Ernst und Nutz lesen und ges brauchen sollen. Denn erstlich verkündigen und bezeugen sie Christi

<sup>41)</sup> Pohle-Preuss, 385-397.

<sup>42)</sup> Luther, in Smalcald Articles, Trigl., 464.

<sup>1)</sup> St. Louifer Musg. XIV, 16.

Königreich, darin wir jetzt leben und alle Christgläubigen bisher geslebt haben und leben werden bis an der Welt Ende. Und das ist uns gar ein starker Trost und tröstliche Stärke, daß wir für unser christliche Leben so mächtige und alte Zeugen haben, dadurch unser christlicher Glaube gar hoch getröstet wird, daß er der rechte Stand sei vor Gott.... Dafür sind uns nun die Propheten gut, wie St. Petrus rühmt 1 Petr. 1, 12, daß die Propheten haben's nicht ihnen selbst dargetan, was ihnen ossendert ist, sondern uns, uns (spricht er) haben sie es dargetan. Denn sie haben uns also gedient mit ihrem Weissagen".2)

Nachdem wir nun schon bei dem ersten Schriftpropheten Obadja messianische Weissagung gefunden haben, freilich sehr turz und noch ftark verhüllt (vgl. das Augustheft dieser Zeitschrift, S. 603), finden wir bei dem nächsten Propheten, Joel, schon einen großen Fortschritt in diefer Sinficht, und befonders tommen dafür zwei Stellen in Betracht: Rap. 2, 23 die Beissagung bom "Lehrer zur Gerechtigkeit" und Rap. 3, 1—5 die Ankündigung der wunderbaren reichen Ausgießung des Beiligen Geiftes. Beide Stellen hängen, wie wir feben werden, que fammen, wir behandeln sie darum auch zusammen. Und während die erfte etwas umftritten ift, so ift die zweite fehr klar und beutlich, eine der größten und wichtigften Beisfagungen des ganzen Alten Testa= ments, so daß schon Luther mit Recht in seiner kleinen Vorrede auf unfern Propheten fagt: "Er ift im Neuen Testament hoch berühmt, benn St. Petrus zeucht ihn hervor Apoft. 2, 16. 17. Und muß Joel die erste Bredigt geben, so in der driftlichen Kirche geschehen ift, nämlich auf den Bfingstag zu Berufalem, da der Beilige Geift jest gegeben war. So führt St. Paulus Rom. 10, 13 den Spruch auch gar herrlich: "Wer ben Namen des Herrn anruft, foll felig werden', welcher auch im Joel, Rap. 3, 5, fteht." 3)

Die erste Stelle findet sich mitten in der Aufforderung Joels zur Freude darüber, daß Gott bei der schrecklichen Doppelplage der Heusschrecken und der Dürre auf die Buhe und Bitte seines Bolles hin sich seiner erbarmen, die Plage beseitigen und ihm reichen leiblichen und geistlichen Segen bescheren will. Das Land soll sich freuen, Kap. 2, 21, die Tiere des Feldes sollen sich freuen, V. 22, und dor allem sollen sich die Söhne Zions freuen, V. 23. Der wichtige Vers lautet in wörtlicher übersehung:

Und ihr Söhne Zions, frohlodet und freuet euch in Jehovah, eurem Gott. Denn er gibt euch ben Lehrer zur Gerechtigkeit und läßt herabkommen auf euch Regenguß, Frühregen und Spätregen zuerst. Die Söhne Zions sind nicht bloß die Bewohner Jerusalems. Die Einwohner der Hauptstadt sind nur genannt als Repräsentanten bes Reiches Juda. Die Seuschredenplage hat ja nicht bloß Jerusalem

XIV, 33.

<sup>3)</sup> XIV, 56.

getroffen, sondern das ganze Land. Deshalb wurden auch alle Beswohner zum Bußgottesdienst zusammengerusen, Kap. 1, 2, 14; 2, 16. So muß auch die Aufforderung zum Jubel sich auf alle Bewohner des Landes beziehen. Sie sollen sich freuen in Jehovah; der Erund ihrer Freude liegt in ihm, in Jehovah, ihrem Gott. Durch Abwendung der Strase und Zuwendung neuen Segens hat er sich ihnen als ihr Gott bezeugt.

Der Segen ift aber zweifacher Art. Gott gibt ihnen den Lehrer zur Gerechtigkeit und spendet ihnen reichlichen Regen. Das ift ber שת-המורה לצדקה Brund ihrer Freude. Freilich find nun die Borte את-המורה לצדקה bon jeher berschieden erklärt worden. Luther und unsere andern Ausleger überseten das Wort moreh mit "Lehrer", Calvin und andere ältere und neuere Eregeten mit "Frühregen". Die Authorized Version fagt: "former rain moderately", hat aber als Randbemerkung die übersehung "a teacher of righteousness"; die Revised Version übersett: "former rain in just measure". Luther bemerkte im Jahre 1528: "Hebraica ista vox magnam facit in translatoribus varietatem" und neigte sich zu der übersetzung "Regen", "quia dabit vobis imbrem misericorditer".4) Später übersette er jedoch "Lehrer", und schon der alte judische Gelehrte Abarbanel verstand darunter den Meffias. Nun bedeutet moreh offenbar im letten Bersteil "Frühregen" nach dem Kontext. Beachtenswert ift jedoch, daß Frühregen sonst immer joreh heißt, nur hier moreh. Offenbar gebraucht Joel hier das Wort moreh wegen des Gleichklangs mit dem ersten moreh, und wir haben ein Bortfpiel anzunehmen. Dasselbe Bort wird zweimal in einem Berfe gebraucht, aber in verschiedener Bedeutung. An der ersten Stelle muß moreh nämlich Lehrer, Unterweiser, instructor, teacher, heißen. Diese Bedeutung des Wortes ist sprachlich leicht zu erklären, abgeleitet von ", unterweisen, lehren, und ist im Siphil gang gewöhnlich im Alten Testament, wie jedes Wörterbuch zeigt. Stellen wie 2 Chron. 15, 3; Jef. 9, 14; 30, 20; Hiob 36, 22 vindizieren die Bedeutung "Lehrer" für moreh. Es kann hier nicht Frühregen heißen, was an sich ja sprachlich möglich wäre. Dann wäre icon ber bestimmte Artifel "ben Lehrer" nicht recht zu erklären. Beder joreh, Frühregen, noch malkosch, Spätregen, hat jemals den Artifel. Das Bort "Regen" stünde dann auch viermal im Verse, zu oft für einen folch eleganten Schreiber, wie Joel es ift, und es ftunde in merkwürdiger Reihenfolge. Bor allem aber entscheidet der Zusat lizedakah, "zur Gerechtigkeit", gegen diefe Faffung. Dazu paßt "Frühregen" in feiner Beife; es gibt feinen ordentlichen Ginn: Frühregen zur Gerechtigkeit. König und Gefenius wollen barum bier die Bedeutung "gnädige Gefinnung, Barmherzigkeit", annehmen, wie ichon Luther in seiner früheren übersetzung es mit misericorditer wieder-

<sup>4)</sup> Weimarer Musgabe 13, 107.

gegeben hat; aber das ist eine Bedeutung, die zedakah nicht hat. Ober man müßte umdeuten: Frühregen nach rechtem Maß oder zu rechter Zeit, wie es die englischen übersehungen tun, was aber ebenfalls sprachlich nicht geht. Zedakah hat eben nur ethische Bedeutung, "Gesrechtigkeit", kommt nirgends in physischem Sinn vor. Luthers überssehung in seiner Bibel ist die einzig richtige, die auch schon von der Bulgata (doctorem iustitiae), von Hengstenberg, Keil, Delipsch, Merr und andern namhasten neueren Auslegern angenommen wird. Gott schenkt einen Lehrer zur Gerechtigkeit, einen, der Anweisung gibt, wie man zur Gerechtigkeit kommen kann, zum gottgefälligen Zustand.

r

ŧ

Aber wer ift nun diefer Lehrer? Manche Ausleger denken an Joel felbst. So hält 3. B. von Orelli die übersetung "Lehrer", "Unter= weiser", für richtig, sagt aber: "Dieser Unterweiser ist nicht ber Meffias oder ein fünftiger Lehrer, sondern der Prophet, der das Bolt zur Buße gerufen hat." 5) Das ift ja in gewissem Sinn richtig, er= schöpft aber nicht den Ausdrud; und es wäre doch auch fehr merkwürdig, wenn Joel sich selbst ohne weiteres als den Lehrer zur Gerechtigkeit bezeichnet hatte, wenn er seine eigene Sendung dem Bolf als Grund des Jubels nennen würde. Andere, die das ganze Buch später datieren, denken an den frommen König Josia; andere hegen noch andere An= fichten. Aber der Ausbruck deutet offenbar auf einen gang besonderen Lehrer hin, wie der (in der deutschen und englischen übersehung fehlende) bestimmte Artikel anzeigt; und das ift ber Messias. Bir haben bier ein Beispiel, daß die messianische Beissagung gang unbermittelt neben die leibliche tritt, die heilsgeschichtliche neben die zeitgeschichtliche. Dies ift oft der Fall; bgl. 3. B. Jef. 7, 10-17. Wir durfen uns darum nicht daran stoßen, daß dieser Segen mitten unter ben leiblichen Seg= nungen genannt wird.

Daß der Wessias gemeint ist, bestätigt sodann auch der Kontext. Nach B. 27 wohnt Jehovah unter seinem Bolk, in ihrer Witte; das Auftreten des Lehrers fällt zusammen mit der Gegenwart des Herrn. Und besonders wird dies durch Kap. 3, 1 bestätigt: "Nach diesem will ich ausgießen meinen Geist". Dieses "nach diesem" entspricht dem "am Ansang", "zuerst", am Schluß unsers Verses. Erst kommt der Lehrer zur Gerechtigkeit, und dann folgt die Geistesausgießung. Kap. 3, 1 ist aber offendar eine Weissgagung auf Pfingsten, wie alle Ausseger annehmen und so liegt es nahe, bei dem Lehrer an Christum zu denken. Dieser Lehrer sandte wirklich nach seiner Himmelsahrt den Geist aus der Höhe, Apost. 1 und 2, besonders 2, 33: "Run er", der gekreuzigte, auserstandene und gen Himmel gefahrene Christus, "durch die Rechte Gottes erhöhet ist und empfangen hat die Verheißung des Heiste Gottes erhöhet ist und empfangen hat die Verheißung des Heisten Geistes dom Vater, hat er ausgegossen dies, was ihr sehet und höret." Darum sagt Luther, der auch in seinen Verdigten immer der große

<sup>5)</sup> Rurggefaßter Rommentar bon Strad-Bodler, S. 245.

Bermeneut und Ereget ift, in feiner frommen, findlichen Beise: "Da feben wir nun, wie die lieben Apostel fein stimmen mit den beiligen Propheten. Ich hatte das nicht erfehen können, daß diefe Beisfagung bes Propheten Joel von dem gefreuzigten JEsu von Nazareth follte berstanden werden und daß das Wort "Ich will ausgießen" sollt' so viel heißen als: JEsus, von den Juden gekreuzigt, hat ausgegoffen. Aber ber Beilige Beift hatte es ben Aposteln offenbart, daß fie die Schrift verstanden. Darum beutet St. Petrus, wer der ,Ich' fei, und fagt, es fei JEfus von Nazareth; berfelbe fei ber Gott, ber burch ben Bropheten Joel spricht: "Ich will ausgießen von meinem Geist." 6) Daß aber der Messias gerade als Lehrer bezeichnet wird, ist leicht erflärlich. Schon Moses hatte ihn als den groken Bropheten der Rufunft bezeichnet, den der BErr Brael erweden werde, Deut. 18, 15, 18. Christus ist wirklich ber Prophet, & noomfrns, der große, einzigartige Prophet, Joh. 1, 21; 3, 2; Luk. 7, 16. Und er ist auch wirklich ein Lehrer "zur Gerechtigkeit". Er zeigt, wie man zu ber Gerechtigkeit, die bor Gott gilt, gelangen fann.

Im Anschluß an diese kurze messianische Weissagung von der Berson und dem Amt des Wessias fassen wir nun die große, ausführsliche Weissagung von der Ausgießung des Geistes in der messianischen Zeit, Kap. 3, 1—5, ins Auge.

Und es wird geschehen nachher, ausgießen will ich meinen Beift über alles Fleifch, und weisfagen werben eure Sohne und eure Tochter, eure Alten werden Träume träumen, eure Jünglinge werben Gefichte feben, B. 1. "Nach diesem", "nachher", weist, wie schon bemerkt, auf Rap. 2, 23 zurud. Dort war eine erfte Gabe genannt, "im Anfang", "zuerst". Nachdem jedoch der Lehrer zur Gerechtigkeit gegeben, nachbem ber Meffias erschienen ift, wird ein zweites Bunder ber meffianischen Zeit geschehen. Durch diese Berbindung wird die Ausgiefung des Geistes zugleich als eine Folge der Gabe des Lehrers bezeichnet. Sachlich richtig ist bieses "nachher", Apost. 2, 17 wieder= gegeben mit "in ben letten Tagen", "in the last days". Mit ber Ausgiegung des Geiftes ift eben die lette Zeit angebrochen. Wir begegnen hier wieder diesem bekannten terminus technicus für die messianische Zeit, der sich sowohl in der Beissagung, 1 Mos. 49, 1. 10-12; 4 Mof. 24, 14. 17-24; Jef. 2, 2; Micha 4, 1, wie in der Erfüllung, 1 Ror. 10, 11; Sebr. 1, 2, findet. Mit der meffianischen Zeit hat tatfächlich die lette Zeit begonnen. Alle großen Gottestaten jum Beile ber Belt find gefchehen, die Schöpfung, die Erlöfung, die Beiftesausgiegung; nur eine ift noch übrig, die Bollendung am Ende ber Belt. "Ich will ausgießen", lautet die Beisfagung. Der Redende ist Jehovah, der als Bundesgott inmitten seines Volkes wohnt,

<sup>6)</sup> XIII, 2073.

Rab. 2, 27, genauer ber Meffias, der dies alles tun wird zum Beile der Menschen und durch den Gott schließlich auch die Welt richten wird, Joh. 5, 27; Apoft. 17, 31. Und der Ausdrud "ausgießen" ift gewählt mit Beziehung auf den Regenguß, Deb, Rap. 2, 23. Er befagt ein bisher unerhörtes Mag ber Berleihung bes Geiftes, eine Mitteilung in reichster Fülle, ift auch sonst fehr passend, weil auch anderwärts ber Beilige Geift mit Baffer und fruchtbarem Regen verglichen wird, Jef. 44, 3; Hefek. 36, 25—27; Sach. 12, 10; 13, 1; Joh. 7, 37—39. Da Jehovah der Redende ist, so ist es der Geist Jehovahs, der ausge= goffen wird, der Geift, der die heiligen Männer Gottes des Alten Bundes erfüllte, der aus den Propheten redete. Auch im Alten Testament ist die Lehre vom Heiligen Geiste geoffenbart, 1 Mos. 6, 3; Pj. 33, 6; 51, 13; 139, 7; Jef. 11, 2; 44, 3; 63, 10; Hefek. 36, 27; Sach. 12, 10 usw.; und dieser Geist Jehovahs ist derselbe, der im Neuen Testament der Geift des Baters, der Geift Chrifti, der Beift Gottes heißt, der Beift der Bahrheit, der Beilige Geift ufm., Matth. 28, 19; Joh. 14—16; Apost. 5, 3. 4; 1 Kor. 2, 10—16; 2 Petr. 1, 21; 1 Joh. 5, 6-8 usw. Es ist die dritte Person der Gott= heit, der insonderheit das Werk der Beiligung zugeschrieben wird, das Prinzip des geistlichen Lebens und der geistlichen Kraft. Darum erklärt eben St. Petrus, wie wir schon gesehen haben, Apost. 2, 33, unsere Stelle fo: "Chriftus hat ausgegoffen dies, was ihr febet und höret." Der Pfingstgeist ist die Gabe des erhöhten Seilandes, und Christus ift der Jehovah des Alten Bundes, wie Luther in der aus einer feiner Pfingftpredigten ichon angeführten Stelle betont.7)

Diefer Geift foll ausgegoffen werden "über alles Fleisch". Der Ausdruck bezeichnet ben benkbar größten, weitesten Umfang. Ber nur Fleisch ift, wer nur Mensch ift, foll den Geift Gottes empfangen, auch die Heiden, wie der Zusammenhang zeigt, B. 5, nicht bloß Jörael. Mit demfelben Ausdruck wird auch fonst die gesamte Menschheit bezeichnet, 1 Mof. 6, 12. 13; und negativ Matth. 24, 22, "tein Mensch", no flesh, ούν αν έσώθη πασα σάοξ. Aber es ift Torheit und Frevel, wenn rationalistische Exegeten dabei auch an die vernunftlosen Tiere denken, sogar an die Heuschrecken. "Fleisch", בַּשַׂר, σάρξ, steht aber zugleich im Gegensat zu Geift, הוח, העבטעם, und bezeichnet auch hier zugleich bie menschliche Natur nach ihrer Untüchtigkeit zum geistlichen und göttlichen Leben. Doch durch die Ausgießung des Geistes wird dieser Zustand geändert. Denn nun wird die Wirkung des Geistes am Fleisch be= schrieben: "Und", das ist so viel wie "so daß" "eure Söhne und Töchter werden weissagen." Die Glieder der Menschheit werden spezialisiert. Sie werden alle tätig sein als Organe des Geistes, ohne Unterschied des Geschlechts (Söhne und Töchter), des Alters (Greife und Jünglinge), des Standes (Knechte und Mägde, B. 2). Sie alle

<sup>7)</sup> Für die Pfingstpredigt find besonders zu beachten seine beiden Predigten in der hauspostille, XIII, 2046. 2062, und feine Auslegung Joels, VI, 1574.

werden ben Beiligen Geift mit feinen Gaben empfangen und werben Propheten Gottes fein. Sie werben göttliche Dinge ichauen, wie bie Propheten fie ichauten. Nur die Form, in der fie diefe empfangen, ist berschieden, und es wird eine breifache Beise ber Mitteilung genannt. Die Söhne und Töchter werden weisfagen, wobon ber technische Ausbrud für "Brophet", גביא, Sprecher, abgeleitet ift. Sie werden von Gott gelehrt fein durch den Geift, der ihnen die Wahrheit fagt, und werden infolgedeffen weisfagen, das beift, die Offenbarung andern mitteilen. Beisfagen ift eben der allgemeine Ausbruck für prophetische Berkundigung. Die Alten werben Träume haben und die Junglinge Gefichte feben. Auch Träume und Bisionen werden vom Seiligen Geift gewirkt. Er hat eben Einfluß auf das ganze innere Leben. Die ihn empfangen, haben beilige Dinge, beilige Bilder vor Augen, er beiligt und durchdringt auch das Traumleben, wie Stöckhardt, dem wir in dieser ganzen Ausführung vielfach folgen, in einer ganz gewaltigen Pfingstpredigt zeigt.8) Die verschiedenen Braditate, die der Brophet in unserm Berse gebraucht, kommen eigentlich fämtlichen Subjekten zu. Sie find auseinandergehalten, um berschiedene Glieder zu bilden nach ber rhetorischen Figur ber Individualisierung ober Spezialisierung. Pfychologisch verkehrt meinten Rationalisten wie Sitig und Credner, bag der Beift Gottes im geschwächten Geifte bes Greifes fich nur noch burch Träume und Nachtgesichte offenbare; die noch fräftige, lebhafte Phantasie bes Jünglings und Mannes habe Gesichte des Tages, eigentliche Bifionen; in der Seele des Rindes aber wirke der Geift nur als furor sacer. Luther betont vielmehr fehr treffend: "Beisfagung, Gesicht und Träume find ein und basselbe, nämlich die Erkenntnis Gottes durch Christum, welche der Heilige Geist durch das Wort des Evangelii entzündet." 9) Aber die Berteilung der einzelnen Prädikate ift nicht zufällig und willfürlich. Die Sohne und Töchter sollen weißfagen. Begen ber andern Versglieder find damit die Rinder gemeint. Schon die Kinder werden von Gott gelehrt. Der Geift Gottes ift in ihnen, barum weissagen fie, reben bon bem Beil, bas in Chrifto ift. Die Jünglinge werben Bifionen schauen. Im Jünglingsalter ift ber menschliche Geift am lebhaftesten; da wird der Geift Gottes auch die Phantafie erleuchten und beiligen. Die Greise werden Träume träumen. Im Alter ift die menschliche Natur gum Schlummer geneigt. Aber noch im höchsten Alter werden die Greise bon dem reden, was Gottes ift. Alles find alttestamentliche Ausbrücke, die aber neutestamentlich zu berfteben find und feine Stute bilden für allerlei Schwärmer und Schwärmerinnen alter und neuer Zeit, für borgebliche Prophetinnen, für Catherine Booth und die gange Beilgarmee gur Stütung

<sup>8)</sup> Wir haben biefe Prebigt felbst gehört und nachgeschrieben als Stubent im Jahre 1883; sie wurde später gebrudt in ben "Abbentspredigten" biefes hers vorragenden Auslegers unserer Rirche, S. 229—238.

<sup>9)</sup> VI, 1593.

der Frauenpredigt in der Kirche. Auch Frauen sind Organe des Geistes Cottes, sind aber nicht als Lehrer der Kirche bestimmt.

e

Und auch über die Anechte und über die Mägde mill ich in jenen Tagen ausgießen meinen Beift, 2. Die Geiftesausgiegung über die Rnechte und Magde wird hier als etwas Außerorbentliches hinzugefügt, "und sogar". Knechte und Mägde find nämlich hier als leibeigene Sklaven gemeint, was schon in den hebräischen Worten liegt, die darum auch Apost. 2, 18 mit δούλους und δούλας wiedergegeben werden. Nie hatte im Alten Testa= ment ein Sklave die Gabe der Beissagung empfangen. Amos war awar ein Hirte, aber kein leibeigener Sklave. Aber wenn dieser Zeit= punkt eintritt, wird in dieser Beziehung kein Unterschied mehr zwischen Berren und Sklaven sein, Gal. 3, 28. Alle empfangen dieselbe reiche Gabe bes Beiligen Geiftes, aus allen macht der Geift Gottes neue geistliche Kreaturen. Apost. 2, 18 wird nach der übersetzung der Septuaginta bas Wort wov hinzugefügt: meine Anechte und meine Mägde. Nur die Knechte und Mägde find Objekte der Geistesaus= gießung, die sich zu Gott halten und seinen Namen anrufen, nach B. 5. Diefe Geiftesausgiegung wird nun hier bargeftellt als ein Rennzeichen der neutestamentlichen Zeit. Sie geschieht "in jenen Tagen". Freilich war auch schon im Alten Testament der Geist Gottes wirksam. Alle Frommen Jöraels waren durch den Geift neugeboren. Bal. die zu B. 1 angeführten Stellen. Aber wie Chriftus im Alten Bunde noch berborgen war, so war auch der Geist JEsu Christi noch nicht offenbar. Bgl. Joh. 7,39: "Das" (bon den Strömen des lebendigen Baffers) "fagte er aber bon dem Geift, welchen empfahen follten, die an ihn glaubten; benn der Heilige Geist war noch nicht da", ούπω γάο ην πνεύμα, "benn JEsus war noch nicht berkläret" (um den bermeintlichen bogmatischen Anftoß zu beseitigen, als ob es im Alten Teftament feinen Geift gegeben habe, wurde in manchen griechischen Manustripten hinzugefügt dedouévos ober en' adrois). Das ift eben das Neue im Neuen Testament, daß der Geift Gottes als Geift Christi sich offenbart. Er macht die christ= lichen Geheimnisse, die durch Christum geoffenbart find, tund. Und er zeugt von Christo, daß Gott ihn zum Herrn und Christ gemacht hat, Apost. 2, 36. Ferner ist zu beachten das zweimal gebrauchte Wort "außgießen". Der Ausbrud bezeichnet eine Mitteilung in Kraft und Fülle. Und tatsächlich gibt es im Neuen Testament ein viel reicheres Maß des Geistes als im Alten Testament. Die Christen bes Neuen Bundes sehen viel tiefer in die göttlichen Geheimnisse. Bgl. Luk. 10, 23. 24. Und schlieglich ift auf den Ausdruck "über alles Fleisch" zu achten, bas heißt, auch über die Beiden. Im Alten Testament war der Geift wefentlich auf Jsrael beschränkt. Im Neuen Testament hat er keine Schranke. Das zeigt eben die Erfüllung des Neuen Testaments. Apost. 2, 16-39 weift Betrus nach, daß Joels Wort zu Bfingften mahr wurde, und zwar auf das genaueste. Erft ift Chriftus getommen, B. 22,

und dann hat der erhöhte Chriftus den Geift ausgegossen, V. 33. Apost. 10, 45 wundern sich darum die Judenchristen zunächst, daß auch über die Heiden der Geist ausgegossen wurde. Aber gerade die mancherlei Sprachen zu Pfingsten deuteten hin auf "alles Fleisch", und Petrus sagt auch ausdrücklich, daß jenes Pfingsten nur der Ansang der Erfüllung war. Es soll durch das ganze Neue Testament so fortgehen; auch über die fernen Heiden soll der Geist ausgegossen werden, Apost. 2, 38. 39. Und so gehen nun durch die Kirche, die aus allerlei Volk in aller Welt gesammelt wird, Ströme des Geistes und füllen die Erde mit der Erskenntnis des Herrn.

Und ich will geben Bunderzeichen am Simmel und auf ber Erde, Blut und Feuer und Rauchfäulen, 2. 3. Wenn Gott ben Geift mit seinen Bundergaben und Gnaden= gaben ausgießt, wird er auch Schredenszeichen geben, und so schließt fich B. 3 an B. 2 an als einfache Fortsetzung. Die Geistesausgießung ift eben noch nicht die Vollendung des Reiches Gottes; aber diese Bunder und Zeichen find die Vorboten des endlichen Gerichts, B. 4. Solche Wunder geschehen auf Erden, B. 3, und am himmel, B. 4. Die ganze Natur predigt dann bom nahen Endgericht. Der erfte Ausbrud, "Bunderzeichen", Dienie, ift ein allgemeiner Ausbruck, bezeichnet außerordentliche, wunderbare, drohende Naturerscheinungen, regara. Und diese Bunderzeichen werden dann spezialifiert: Blut, Feuer und Rauchfäulen als Reichen auf Erden. Blut und Keuer erinnern an die ägyptischen Plagen, das Blut an die Verwandlung des Nilwassers in Blut, das Keuer an die Keuerklumpen, die mit dem Sagel zur Erde fielen, 2 Mof. 7, 17-25; 9, 22-26. Sie kamen über üghpten als Vorzeichen des Gerichts. Blut und Feuer deuten nun hin auf Blutvergiegung und Krieg, und Rauchfäulen wirbeln auf im Krieg bom Feuer brennender Städte. Auch zu des Meffias Zeiten wird äußerlich noch Krieg fein, nicht fichtbares Glud und irdischer Friede. Chiliasmus ist auch wider diese Stelle der Schrift. Das Messiasreich ift und bleibt auf Erden ein Rreuzreich, denn diese Plagen follen ja bem Jüngsten Tage voraufgehen, B. 4. Sie werden die gottlose Welt treffen. Auch im Neuen Testament werden eben nicht alle die Gabe bes Beiligen Geiftes annehmen. Es wird auch dann noch Ungläubige geben, es wird auch dann noch Feindschaft sein zwischen Gottes Reich und der Welt Reich. Und wie einst Egypten, so wird auch dann die Welt gezüchtigt und gestraft werden. Lgl. Matth. 24, 6—9.

Die Sonne wird sich wandeln in Finsternis und ber Mond in Blut vor dem Kommen des Tages Jes hovahs, des großen und furchtbaren, B.4. Nun wers den die Zeichen am Himmel genannt. Die Sonne versinstert sich, und ber Mond nimmt einen trüben, blutroten Schein an. Auch diese Zeichen haben ihr Vorbild an der ägyptischen Plage, an der dicken, dreitägigen Finsternis und an der Heuschreckenplage, 2 Mos. 10, 21—23; und auch fonft wird in der Schrift die Berfinfterung der himmelslichter erwähnt, teils als Vorbote des herannahenden Gerichts, Joel 2, 2. 10, teils als Zeichen bes Anbruchs bes Gerichtstages, vgl. Rap. 3, 20; Sef. 13, 10; Amos 8, 9; Hefek. 32, 7. 8; Matth. 24, 29; Luk. 21, 25. Bas für Zeichen bas eigentlich sein werben, läßt sich nicht näher be= stimmen; wir muffen aber bei den Worten bleiben. Die Sonne wird wirklich finster werden und der Mond blutigrot. Sie werden nicht nur ihren beilfamen Ginfluß berlieren, sondern auch positiv Berberben bringen. Die Worte geben also nicht auf Naturerscheinungen, die von Beit zu Beit wiederkehren, auf gewöhnliche Sonnen- und Mondfinfterniffe, fondern außerordentliche Erscheinungen find gemeint. Sie fündigen den Gerichtstag an ebenso wie das Heuschreckenheer, Rap. 1, 15; 2, 11. Durch die Buße bes Bolks ist er noch einmal abgewandt worden, aber schließlich muß er über die Welt kommen. Bgl. die Bemerkungen im Oktoberheft, S. 748 ff. Diefer Tag Jehovahs bezeichnet dann den Abschluß der ganzen Erdengeschichte. Es ist der Tag des Zorns über alles gottlose Besen und alle Ungerechtigkeit der Menschen, der dies irae, Röm. 1, 18; 2, 5; Jef. 13, 6; Amos 5, 18; Beph. 1, 14. Er bringt ben Feinden der Kirche das endliche Verderben. Sie haben fich den Geift Gottes nicht strafen lassen, und barum wird es ihnen gehen wie in den Tagen Noahs, 1 Mof. 6, 3; Lut. 17, 22-37. Groß wird der Tag genannt, weil er groß und wichtig ist für jeden Menschen, aber auch, wie schon Soh. Gerhard in seinen Loci anmerkt, weil Gott an bem Tage große Dinge ausrichten wird. Furchtbar, erschrecklich heißt er, weil er die Ungläubigen in Angft und Schrecken setzen wird, so daß fie fagen werden zu den Bergen und Felsen: "Fallet auf uns und ber= berget uns bor dem Angesichte des, der auf dem Stuhl fitt, und bor bem Born bes Lammes", Apot. 6, 16. Den Kindern Gottes aber bringt er die endliche Erlösung, Luk. 21, 28.

Und es wird geschehen, jeder, der anrufen wird ben Ramen Jehovahs, wird gerettet werden; benn auf dem Berge Zion und in Jerusalem wird Er= rettung fein, wie Jehovah gefagt hat, und unter den übriggebliebenen, welche Jehovah rufen will, B. 5. In dieser allgemeinen Schreckenszeit schützt nur eins, die Zuflucht zu Jehovah; und dieser Bers schildert das selige Los der Gläubigen gegenüber der Belt, die der Berdammnis anheimfällt. "Es wird ge= schehen", nämlich in jenen Tagen, B. 2. Da wird es doch auch folche geben, die gerettet werden, gerettet vor dem endlichen gorn und seinen Plagen. Das hier gebrauchte Wort odo heißt eigentlich entwischen, entrinnen; die Septuaginta hat es mit owehoeren übersett, und daraus ift bann der neutestamentliche Ausdruck owrnoia, Beil, Geligkeit, ent= standen. Gerettet wird werden, wer immer den Namen Jehovahs an= ruft, ein Ausbruck, der sich schon 1 Mos. 4, 26; 12, 8 und sonst findet. Er bezeichnet das Bekenntnis zu Gott und die innige Anrufung Gottes.

Das Bekenntnis des Mundes ift Ausdruck des Herzensglaubens. Und ber Name bes Herrn ift gemeint, der nach Rap. 2, 27 in der Mitte Jeraels wohnt, der Heils= und Bundesgott, der Name, durch den Jehovah fich offenbart. Das ift der Meffias, in dem Gott gegenwärtig ift. Deshalb nennt auch St. Petrus ohne weiteres Chriftum als diefen BErrn, den Gefreuzigten und Auferstandenen, Apost. 2, 16-21. 22-36. Und die diefen Namen anrufen, find diefelben, die den Geift empfangen haben; benn bas ift eben bie Birfung bes Geiftes, bag man Gott anruft. Sie werden gelehrt fein von Gott mit dem Namen des BErrn. "Denn auf bem Berge Zion und in Jerufalem wird Errettung fein." Das Bort "Errettung, Entrinnen", das Substantibum bon dem im erften Bersteil fich findenden Berbum, wird hier von Berfonen gebraucht, steht als abstractum pro concreto, "Entronnene, Gerettete", das heißt nach dem Zusammenhang, dem Gericht Entnommene. Es fteht parallel mit dem folgenden שרידים, "übriggebliebene, übrige". Mit dem Berge Zion und mit Jerusalem ist jedoch nicht die irdische Hauptstadt des jüdischen Reichs gemeint, nicht der leibliche Tempelberg. Wir haben hier ja eine Beissagung auf die Zeit des Neuen Testaments, und Zion, Jerusalem, wird hier typisch gebraucht von der Kirche des Neuen Testaments. Es sind alttestamentliche Ausdrücke in neutestamentlichem Sinn, wie auch alle Eregeten außer ben Chiliaften zugeben. Rion war nun im Alten Testament die Stätte der Offenbarung Gottes; Jerusalem war ber Ort, wo ber SErr seines Namens Gedächtnis geftiftet hatte, und eben dies ift dann auch die Bedeutung des neutestamentlichen Zion-Jerusalem. Auch im Neuen Testament gibt es eine Stätte der Offenbarung Gottes. Das ift die Kirche. Da wohnt Gott in Christo. Und da gibt es Entronnene, Gerettete, von dem letten Born, aber auch nur da. Extra ecclesiam nulla est salus. Die Begrünbungspartifel "benn", in am Anfang bes zweiten Satteils begründet nicht eigentlich die Rettung; das war icon im ersten Satteil geschehen, und der Grund des Entrinnens ift Anrufung des Namens des HErrn. Die Partifel bestätigt nachdrudlich, daß es wirklich folche Entronnenen gibt, und fteht, wie öfters im Alten Testament, im Sinne unsers deutschen Ja. Ja, es gibt solche in der Kirche; da wird des HErrn Name angerufen; da gibt es auch einen Rest, der erhalten bleibt. Und das hat Jehovah felbst gesagt und verheißen. Der Ausdruck weist offenbar hin auf ein bestimmtes Wort Jehovahs, auf ein schon bekanntes prophetisches Wort, und wir finden auch tatfächlich diesen Bers wörtlich bei Obadja, B. 17, der älter ift als Joel. Die Errettung erstreckt fich aber nicht nur auf die in Zion und Jerusalem Bohnenden, auf die Gläubigen aus ben Juden. Sie geht auch über die übrigen, die Jehovah ruft. Das hier gebrauchte Wort heißt eigentlich auch "Ent= ronnene", bann, fynekbochifch erweitert, "übriggebliebene, übrige". Das Brabitat in diesem Bersteil ift zu ergangen, namlich: wird bies ber Fall sein, daß sie gerettet werden. Bei diesen übrigen ist an die

Gläubigen aus den Beiden zu denken. Freilich nicht alle Beiden werben gerettet werben, sondern nur die übrigen, der Rest; aber diese werden auch gewiß gerettet werden. Denn mit den Worten "welche Behovah ruft" wird die erste Stufe ihrer schließlichen Errettung angegeben: Jehovah beruft fie. Das Wort or bezeichnet, gerade wie bas neutestamentliche nalem in den apostolischen Briefen, die wirksame Be= rufung, die Bekehrung. Bgl. Rom. 8, 30; 1 Theff. 2, 12; 2 Theff. 2, 14; 1 Tim. 6, 12; 2 Tim. 1, 9; 1 Petr. 2, 9 usw. Jehovah beruft fie, lehrt fie feinen Namen anrufen, und fo errettet er fie. Dag biese Beziehung auf die Beiden richtig ift, zeigt Apost. 2, 39, wo sich St. Betrus ohne Zweifel auf unfere Stelle bezieht, wenn er fagt: "Guer und eurer Rinder ift diese Berheifung und aller, die ferne find, welche Gott, unser Herzurufen wird." Implicite liegt die Rettung der gläubigen Beiden schon in der ersten Vershälfte, wo die Rettung an das Anrufen des Namens des HErrn gefnüpft wird. Des= halb beweift auch St. Paulus aus diesem Bers die Teilnahme der Beiben am Beil, Rom. 10, 12. 13.

So ist es eine große, reiche messianische Verheißung, die wir diesem kleinen, aber tatsächlich großen Propheten Joel verdanken und die beutlich die beiden Perioden des Neuen Testaments anzeigt, einmal die Zeit des Wessias und die Zeit des Geistes — das ist die Zeit der Sammlung der Kirche, die Gnadenzeit — und sodann die Zeit, die mit dem letzten Tag beginnt, da die Gläubigen ewig gerettet sind, die Zeit der Herrlichseit.

2. Fürbringer

# The False Arguments for the Modern Theory of Open Questions

A Translation of Dr. C. F. W. Walther's Article Entitled "Die falschen Stuetzen der modernen Theorie von den offenen Fragen," Lehre und Wehre, XIV (1868)

(Conclusion)

Finally, the proponents of the modern theory of open questions advance the argument that there are doctrines of faith in the Bible which God did not reveal in clear-cut, unmistakable terms....

Every one, with the exception of the papist perhaps, will admit the Biblical attributes of perspicuity and clarity (perspicuitas et claritas). Holy Writ lays claim to these attributes in almost countless passages. Since the Bible is the revelation of God to men who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, a lamp unto their feet and a light unto their path on the way to life everlasting, it must be clear; and every one who believes in Holy Writ gladly confesses the reality of this clearness. Who of us will deny that God, the Creator of human speech, is able to speak clearly? Who will

828

deny that God, the eternal Truth, Wisdom, and Love, intended to speak clearly? Who will deny that God actually did speak clearly, yea, was obligated to speak clearly, in that Scripture which He inspired for just one purpose—to tell man what he must know in order to be saved? These denials can be made only by one who either does not believe in God or at least not in the divine origin and purpose of the Bible.

It is indeed true that some passages in Holy Writ are more or less obscure, e.g., passages with historical, archeological, geographical, chronological, ethnological, genealogical, and onomastic difficulties or prophecies whose correct solution will be necessary and possible only when they have been fulfilled. Linguistic difficulties in certain chapters also prevent us from fully comprehending the sense intended by the sacred writers. On these points the readers and exegetes of the Bible cannot arrive at an apodictic interpretation but can reach only a probable one. In the first place, this lack of absolute certainty cannot be attributed to the fact that the Bible itself is obscure in this or that passage; it merely seems to be obscure because the teacher or exegete is not able to verify all the recorded historical data, is puzzled by grammatical or lexical questions, etc. The obscurity is not objective, but subjective. In the second place, this whole question of subjective obscurity is irrelevant to the point which we are considering in this series of articles, namely, Does the Bible actually contain articles of faith - the doctrine of Sunday, for instance - which are not clear and therefore can easily be misunderstood? Even though a person has no knowledge of, or only an imperfect knowledge of, historical data and related facts, yet he is able to find and walk the way of salvation under all circumstances without any hindrance. But in order to be saved, he must know and believe the articles of faith. Without the clear divine revelation and the knowledge of these articles it is impossible not only for the "man of God," the theologian, to use the Scripture for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, in order to be made perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (2 Tim. 3:16, 17), but also for the layman to walk the way of salvation under all circumstances without any hindrance. Scripture is the complete revelation of the way of salvation; therefore it must be clear, exact, and unambiguous in all articles of faith. Whoever denies this fact denies the fundamental doctrine of the clarity of Scripture. Therefore, Aug. Pfeiffer began his book on Hermeneutics with the following words: "The papists and we have been earnestly debating the question whether Holy Scripture, especially in matters of faith and morals, is sufficiently clear or possibly obscure. The papists claim it is obscure; we maintain that it is clear, although we do

make several, especially two, restrictions. In the first place, we distinguish between a total and a partial obscurity. We admit that there is a partial obscurity, i. e., we take into account those passages of Holy Scripture that are obscure and present difficulties which we cannot satisfactorily solve. Onomastic (questions pertaining to proper names) and chronological difficulties and gaps in the genealogy of Christ cast a shadow over some portions of Scripture so that no Bible student is able to remove all those difficulties. 'For the Holy Ghost (as Augustine says in the twelfth book of his De Doctrina Christiana) has organized the books of the Bible in such a wonderful, salutary way that He wanted to satisfy the hunger of the soul through the passages which are clearer than others and to ward off satiety through those which are obscure.' (Ita magnifice et salubriter Spiritus Sanctus Scripturas Sanctas modificavit, ut locis apertioribus fami occurreret, obscurioribus autem fastidia detergeret.) At the same time we deny that the Holy Scriptures are totally obscure and maintain especially that every dogma pertaining to faith and morals is set forth somewhere in Holy Writ in language so clear and unequivocal that any one who searches the Bible conscientiously can know and believe it. In the second place, we distinguish between subjective and objective obscurity and say that Holy Writ is not obscure eo ipso nor with respect to the object that must be known if faith in the true God is to be engendered. It is obscure only through certain circumstances (per accidens) in the subject who does not fully comprehend its meaning because of improper training or equipment, being handicapped either by lack of necessary knowledge or because of an evil disposition of soul." (Thesaur. Hermeneut., p. 1 sq.)

Luther testifies repeatedly that the seeming obscurity of Scripture is due primarily to an imperfect knowledge of the language, and is subjective, not objective. To Erasmus he wrote: "If thereis any obscurity in Scripture, it is due here and there to the words and idiomatic phrases of the language, or to use a Greek term, due to grammar. It is, in general, such an obscurity as does not prevent any one from grasping the sum and substance of Scripture - the dogmas." (Walch XVIII, 2068.) In another connection he wrote: "The Sophists have said that Scripture is obscure; they have supposed that it is a characteristic of the Word of God to use obscure, odd terms. But they fail to see that the difficulty lies in the languages themselves. If it were possible for us to understand the languages perfectly, nothing would be so easy to grasp as the Word of God. The Turkish language is jargon to me because I do not understand it; yet a Turkish child of seven years readily comprehends his own tongue." (Letter to the Mayors and Aldermen of All Cities of Germany in Behalf of Christian Schools, St. L., X, 473.)

It is also true that there are passages in Holy Writ which contain no references to historical data, etc., but which speak of doctrines of faith and yet are not free from obscurity. Some indeed are so obscure that they seem to contradict other passages which are clear. But this fact does not furnish any ground for supposing that Scripture contains doctrines of faith which are not clearly and unmistakably revealed. The clarity and perspicuity of Scripture are vindicated by this particular point: all doctrines of faith, although some of them are referred to in a few obscure Scripture passages, are without exception expressed in clear, unambiguous words, which enable the conscientious Bible student to understand the obscure passages. A denial of this is a denial of the clarity of Scripture, a denial that we really have a sure prophetic apostolic Word, a light that shines in a dark place, a sun that comes out of his chamber like a bridegroom and rejoices like a strong man to run his course; a sure testimony of the Lord, making wise the simple; the commandments of the Lord, rejoicing the heart and enlightening the eyes. (2 Pet. 1; Ps. 19.) Sad to say, there is hardly a Christian doctrine in our day which has sunk into greater oblivion than this doctrine or has been so decisively eliminated as a piece of former narrow-mindedness. The whole present theological intelligentsia is searching the Scriptures eagerly, holding not only that there are many passages which need further clarification (a fact which we do not deny), but also that much material for important new dogmas will be discovered.

Luther, who wrote many a precious word against this kind of Bible-study, expressed himself in the following manner in his exposition of Psalm 37: "But if any one of them attacks you and says, 'You must have the exegesis of the fathers; the Bible is obscure,' you must answer, 'This is not true.' No book on earth is so clear as the Holy Scriptures. It excels every other book just as the sun excels every other light. They employ the foregoing language because they wish to lead us away from Scripture and set themselves over us as our masters, so that we may believe their fantastic dreams. It is a shocking disgrace, blasphemy against the Holy Scriptures and all Christendom, to say that Holy Scripture is obscure and not clear enough to enable every one to understand it and then teach and prove what he believes. Take careful note of this fact: Would it not be a great shame for you or me to be called a Christian and at the same time not know what we believe? But if I know what I believe, I know what is in Scripture; for it contains nothing else than Christ and the Christian faith. Therefore, when the Christian hears Scripture, it is so

831

clear and plain to him that he says without any help from the commentaries of all the fathers and teachers: 'That is right; that is what I also believe.' . . . It is indeed true that some passages of Scripture are obscure, but in them the same truth must be sought which is found in clear, unmistakable passages. And then heretics arise who interpret obscure passages according to their own bias and on the basis of their interpretation contend against the clear passages and foundation of faith. So the fathers strove against them with the clear passages, shed light on those that are obscure, and proved that the obscure said nothing more than that which is expressed in the clear. This is the correct method of Bible-study. . . . Be assured, without doubt there is nothing brighter than the sun, which is Scripture; but if a cloud passes in front of the sun, the very same sun is behind it. Likewise, if there is an obscure passage in Scripture, do not doubt but that the same truth lies hidden in it that is very clear in another passage. Whoever, therefore, cannot understand the obscure ought to abide by the clear." (St. L., V, 334 ff.)

d

h

g

y

ı,

e

s

1

Finally, it is also true that doctrines of faith are not always so clear and evident in Scripture in this sense that every one may at once see and find them, even though he reads Scripture half asleep, with his eyes half closed, or his mind preoccupied with prejudices. In order to see and find all doctrines of faith in Scripture, it is necessary not only to read the sacred pages, but also to seek and search them, keeping the mind free from all prejudices and open to every ray of light emanating from them. Therefore Christ Himself does not only say: "Read the Scriptures," but: "Search the Scriptures" (ἐραυνᾶτε τὰς γραφάς), "for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of Me," John 5:39. This fact does not give any one any support for assuming that Scripture contains articles of faith which are not clearly and unmistakably revealed. The clarity and perspicuity of Scripture make it possible for any one to understand any book of the Bible; nevertheless, the Bible student must read carefully, search earnestly, be free from prejudice, be open-minded and receptive to the truth. Therefore the apostle wrote: "But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the Image of God, should shine unto them," 2 Cor. 4:3, 4. Is it not shocking when people ascribe to the alleged obscurity and ambiguity of the Scriptures what is merely the result of human blindness and malice or at any rate of human weakness?

Whatever is not "clearly and unmistakably" revealed in Scripture is not revealed at all. To maintain that certain doctrines of

faith are indeed revealed in Scripture but not in clear, understandable words is nothing else than a denial of God's wisdom and goodness and blasphemy against God or a denial of the divine origin of Holy Writ. *Tertium non datur*.

When our opponents set up as an argument for the support of their theory of open questions the principle that some doctrines of faith, that of Sunday, for instance, are not clearly and unmistakably revealed in Scripture, they give evidence of an irreconcilable difference in their theology and that of our Evangelical Lutheran Church. For the Evangelical Lutheran Church in her whole theology stands upon the principle that Scripture is clear and plain in all doctrines of faith. Therefore she lets Scripture speak for itself and judges doctrines by the clear Word of God. Our opponents, however, proceed from the principle that Scripture is obscure and easily misunderstood also in doctrines of faith and, consequently, let their own judgment decide one way or the other.

This is an error of far-reaching, ruinous consequences. We know with what detrimental effect the Papacy has insisted on the principle that Scripture is obscure and difficult to understand, We also know how the Reformed Church has applied this principle to the clear words of the institution of the Lord's Supper. The Reformed attitude demonstrates that our opponents gain nothing by maintaining that they do not count the doctrine of Baptism and the Lord's Supper among the open questions because they are clearly and unmistakably revealed in God's Word. For if we accept as true that Scripture contains doctrines of faith, e.g., the doctrine of Sunday, which are not clearly and unmistakably revealed, we have destroyed a pillar of revelation, whose ruin will eventually involve the collapse of the whole structure. If men do not want to bring about this ruin, - and certainly some of our opponents do not desire it, - there is only one course for them to pursue, i. e., to admit that Scripture is plain and clear in all doctrines of faith and to agree that everything which is clearly and unmistakably revealed in Scripture can be proved from its chapters either in a brief statement or in a more or less elaborate essay or after solving some existing difficulties. The Arminians are a further example of the ruin caused by this false principle. This is what Calvoer says of them: "They claim that no one is bound to believe anything outside of that which is plainly written in so many words in Scripture or that can be deduced and proved from the words of the Bible according to the laws of logic and so be grasped with the hands, as it were, as, for example, the sequence 'It runs; therefore it moves.' Consequently, according to their opinion, no one is bound to believe in the mystery of the Holy Trinity, in the

personal union in Christ, in the essential presence of Christ's body and blood in Holy Communion, etc., especially not, if he has scruples in regard to any of these doctrines. The following must also be added to the things which one is not obligated to believe, namely, that the Holy Ghost must be worshiped; that Christ was born of the substance of Mary; that the fathers of the Old Testament died in the hope of eternal life; that faith in Christ is one; that men are justified through the merits of Christ; that Christ was not bound to be obedient; that faith is received through the merits of Christ; that children can be regenerated; that there is original sin; that sins flowing out of original sin are essentially sin; that the death which God pronounced upon Adam was at the same time eternal death; that God is omnipresent, omniscient; that concupiscence belongs to the sins for whose forgiveness we ask in the Lord's Prayer; that man cannot free himself from sin; that the government may shed blood; that the Decalog demands everything that is to be done, even self-denial, taking up one's cross, etc.; that it is necessary to believe in infant baptism; that Baptism is a seal of the forgiveness of sins; that the same bodies will rise from the dead. For, they believe, it is a possible to prove from Scripture that any one of these points is undeniably true and must necessarily be accepted." (Fissurae Zionis. Lips. 1700. p. 541 sq.)

What a long list of doctrines which they allege are not clearly and unmistakably revealed in Scripture! But the principle that Scripture contains doctrines of faith which are not clearly and unmistakably revealed and must therefore be counted as open questions inevitably leads not only to unionism and syncretism, but also to thoroughgoing skepticism and indifference in doctrine, even to the most shocking unbelief, and finally ends in the principle of the well-known scoffer who said: "Ein jeder kann nach seiner Façon selig werden." What is the language of the unionists, all the way down the line to the most rabid unbelievers, when they are confronted with the letter of God's Word? "Yes," they say, "those words are indeed written, but who will incontrovertibly prove to me that your or my exposition of this passage is the correct one? Does not all strife in Christendom arise out of human interpretation?"

The words that Luther wrote concerning the alloiosis with which Zwingli tried to support his doctrine of Holy Communion: "Beware, beware, I say, of the alloiosis; it is the devil's specter; for it finally gives us a Christ after whom I would not like to be called a Christian" must be applied to the principle that doctrines of faith are not clearly and unmistakably revealed in Scrip-

er-

ne

of

es

s-

n-

al

er

ar re

d.

h

r

e

ture, for it takes the very heart out of the Bible and prevents us from believing its divine message.

We close with this prayer on our lips: May the Lord guard and defend the Church, the dearly bought communion of saints, in this new fatherland of ours against the inane theory which at the present time is a cancerous sore in the theology and the Church of our former fatherland and which, if it gained ground here, would gnaw at the root of the freshly budding tree of our American Church and cause it to wither away again! A general acceptance of this principle would indeed establish peace in the Church, but a syncretistic peace, of which the sainted Dannhauer said: Foris εξοήνη, intus ἐρίννυς (externally peace, internally discord).

Oak Glen, Ill.

ALEX WM, C. GUEBERT

### Fighting Liberalism with Blunted Weapons

The Faith We Declare. By Edwin Lewis, Professor of Systematic Theology in Drew Theological Seminary (Methodist). Cokesbury Press, Nashville, Tenn. 236 pages, 5½×7¾. Price, \$2.00.

The Modernists will not like certain sections of this book. The Christian Century says: "This is a great book, greatly written, and greatly needed. Liberal Christians will find it hard to believe this. They still have in their mouths the bad taste of A Christian Manifesto, which was hailed with glee by the foes of spiritual freedom. They are through with Lewis. But here Lewis goes Christian again, and with a will." The reviewer himself does not like certain things in the book. "There is still too generous an adherence to the shibboleths and slogans of Fundamentalism. . . . Lewis is all the while injecting phrases that seem to be concessions to the reactionaries. And his judgments on occasion are petulant. 'Is it that they (the Modernists) want the old terms dropped because they have ceased to believe what the old terms represent? (P. 111.)" Indeed, Lewis deals roughly with the radical Modernists. He charges them with dishonesty. He goes on to say on page 111: "When they say that the old terms can no longer be made meaningful, is it that they do not want them to be made meaningful? Is it that, when they propose the creation of a new framework for Christianity, what they really have in mind is a radical change in what the framework is designed to support?" He tells them plainly that their new framework for Christianity covers the ruin of all Christianity. "There are numerous definitions of God current today which reduce Him to a condition of complete helplessness so far as any direct influence on either things or men is concerned. In such a philosophy there is no place for

nts

 $^{\mathrm{rd}}$ 

ts,

at

ch

 $\operatorname{ld}$ 

an

ce

ut

is

ic

y

e

e

ıl

t

n

n

e

e

a chosen people; no place for specific divine revelation, . . . and certainly, therefore, no place for such concepts as those of the supernatural, divine mercy, incarnation, miracle, atonement, reconciliation, and the like. A philosophy which makes these preclusions is typically 'modern.' It can be presented with a great show of plausibility. . . . It can make large use of the magic terms evolutionism, rationalism, organicism. But such a philosophy and the Christian faith cannot live together in the same world; at least they cannot live together in the same mind." (P. 120.) Lewis declares war against radical Modernism, a war to the death. "We gain nothing," he goes on to say, "by blinking the fact that Christianity not merely is a religion in the narrow sense of spiritual life and experience but also, as has been said repeatedly, involves definite beliefs about God, about the world, about man, about the course of events - and with any view which challenges or denies these beliefs Christianity can make no peace."

Going to the root of the matter, Dr. Lewis points out that the religious philosophy of Liberalism is based on the alleged selfsufficiency of man. The thoroughgoing Liberal has no need of a divine Savior. Lewis does well to tell these men: "No man can ever be a Christian in any proper sense who is not willing to believe some truths about himself which are a flat contradiction of his self-sufficiency in respect of both mind and will. . . . "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; and he cannot know them, because they are spiritually judged.' It is difficult for the modern man to agree to this. He would be the arbiter of his own destiny, the master of his own fate, the captain of his own soul. He would determine for himself what is true and what is not true. . . . What we have to face is the fact that it has also crept into the Church. Well might we pray for another Jeremiah to lift up his voice against the grievous hurt of the daughter of God's people, as the cry is heard, 'Peace, Peace,' when there is no peace. Or perhaps we would better pray that God would give to His Church in our day another Luther, who would point to the one ground on which the Church can securely stand, and bid it stand there confident and unafraid, 'amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.' But all is not well with the Church, and it is not well because the Church has too often forgotten the rock whence it was hewn and the pit whence it was digged." (P. 126 ff.)

Adam "wished rather to be self-sufficient." Like him, the moderns have adopted the motto "To thyself be—sufficient." (P. 126.) "This supposition of human self-sufficiency is a leading item in the modern creed" (p. 23), and the inevitable result is that they deny the basic truth of Christianity, salvation through the

work of Christ, the Son of God. That is the charge Lewis raises against the radical Modernist. "It leads him to wave aside as a piece of speculation borrowed from Alexandrian philosophy that most profound and overwhelming statement of the fourth gospel: "The Word was with God. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.' . . . Naturalism is antithetical to every distinctive element of the Christian faith. Yet there are many people associated with the Church who do not seem to realize this. In so far as they believe in Jesus Christ, it is as one of the great teachers which the race has from time to time produced." (P. 127 ff.) All is not well with the Church, and it is not well because these moderns are telling it to forget the rock whence it was hewn and the pit whence it was digged.

Forget the old doctrine of salvation through faith in the atoning work of Jesus Christ and save yourself through your ethical aspirations and accomplishments. The Modernists are telling the Church that the essence of Christianity is the ethical teaching of Jesus. Lewis is telling them: "Christianity is not primarily an ethic, although it carries with it an ethic incomparable and revolutionary." (P. 55.) He will have nothing to do with this gross form of autosoterism preached by the extreme Liberals. All is wrong with the church that heeds their voice. —We can understand why "the liberal Christians have a bad taste in their mouths" after reading A Christian Manifesto and The Faith We Declare.

Certain points in Dr. Lewis's charge against Liberalism are of special significance to us, too. They treat of dangers confronting us, too. One point concerns the business of the Church, which is the preaching of the Gospel. We are not going to turn the Gospel into an ethical code, as the Liberals have done; but if we should make social rehabilitation the goal of the Church's work or even if we should make ethical betterment or the works of charity the chief business of the Church, we would ultimately arrive in the liberal camp. Our readers will know what we have in mind when they study these pronouncements of Dr. Lewis: "All is not well with the Church, and it is not well because the Church has too often forgotten the rock whence it was hewn. . . . In so far as they believe in the Church, it is as a society of men of good will, an institution with a useful social function to discharge, an agency for promoting mutual understanding and for keeping men mindful of the higher things of life. Much of the weakness of the modern Church is to be traced to this source." (P. 132 ff.) Because of "those who have reduced Christianity to a social and economic theory . . . and see in the Church nothing but an instrument for the propagation of humanitarian, social, and economic theories, . . . the Church itself today is in grave danger of defining the content

of its message in a way that makes it a matter of indifference that Christ should have lived and suffered and died and risen again. If the Church has nothing to talk about except what it could find in the Hebrew prophets and elsewhere in the Old Testament, then let us lay aside the New Testament except in so far as it may be an interesting commentary on the Old, and let us transform our churches into synagogs." (Pp. 19, 194.) We are certainly still preaching the living Christ, but what is happening in the liberal churches contains an earnest warning to us: "The Church languishes today because it has exchanged the role of Mary for the role of Martha; it has turned its eyes away from the living Christ and has become 'busy about many things.'" (P. 98.)

Another point: Dr. Lewis scourges the Liberals for proclaiming the self-sufficiency of reason in spiritual matters. We of the Lutheran Church have always denounced rationalism. But those Lutherans who attempt to harmonize seemingly contradictory teachings of the Bible, modifying certain statements of the Bible in the interest of a rational compromise, and those of us who think we must vindicate the teachings of the Bible before the forum of reason and logic, need to be told by Dr. Lewis: "The Church has languished when it has surrendered or modified or compromised these truths under the pressure of rationalism." (P. 98.) "What books have you ever read which were more uninspiring, more deadly in their effects, than the books in which the Christian faith was 'reduced' — (the word is well-chosen!) — to the dimensions of an impeccable rationality?" (P. 230.) But dare we in our teaching, in repeating the statements of Scripture, fly in the face of logic? "In actual fact no man lives by logic, but many claim to do so. The claim always gives them an excuse for refusing what they do not want to be true." (That's the root of the matter!) "The two-plus-two-equals-four attitude to life is remarkable chiefly for the areas in which it is not operative! One can appreciate the impatience of Dostoevski, which led him to exclaim: 'I spit on the philosophy that cannot see beyond "two plus two equals four."' . . . There are ways to truth other than the way of logic." (P. 24.) 1) "It may not be syllogistic truth, and it

<sup>1)</sup> Luther speaks in a similar strain. He asks us not to pay any attention to reason when it ridicules the Christian teachings on the two-plus-two-equals-four basis. "Es lautet zu laecherlich in Ohren und geht nicht in die Vernunft. Ja, es soll auch nicht darein gehen, sondern so dazu sagen: Wenn ich das Wort hoere lauten als von oben herab, so glaube ich's; ob ich's wohl nicht kann fassen und nicht verstehen, noch in meinen Kopf will, wie ich das kann fassen, dass zwei und fuenfe sind sieben, mit der Vernunft, und lass mich niemand anders weisen; noch wenn er oben herab sagte, nein, sondern es sind achte, so sollte ich's glauben wider meine Vernunft und Fuehlen. . . . Also sollst du auch hier tun. Ob's gleich die Vernunft nicht kann leiden,

may not be scientific truth, but it is truth none the less." (P. 232.) "Are not the most important truths those which in their very nature are extralogical?" (P. 26.) "The Christian certitudes are faith certitudes, not logical certitudes." (P. 14.) Why, then, should we be perturbed when the Scripture teachings present logical difficulties? And why should we waste our time in trying to demonstrate the Bible-truths? "The voice of the Church is prophetic. Its task is to announce, not to debate; to take its stand on the revealed will and Word of God and declare to the world what that will and Word are." (P. 45.) "Your business as a preacher is not to prove Christian truth by much elaborate ratiocination, but to allow it through full testimony to demonstrate the reality of its saving power. . . . Your business is not to force the Christian faith into a logical strait-jacket and to reject what will not submit to the treatment, but to declare it in living wholeness. Do not forget that the stone which the logic-choppers reject because it is too hard for their shaping-tools, is still the head-stone of the corner in the building of faith." (P. 227.) If you once begin to ask regarding any Bible teaching: "Is this logical?" and then chop and change it in order to give it the correct logical form, you are a Liberal, a rationalist, in embryo, and this is what Lewis has to say to the full-grown Liberals: "You cannot eliminate all 'mystery' from the Christian faith; or if you do, what is left is no longer a living thing glowing with emotional warmth, but a few ethical principles, barren of feeling, icily regular, and as impotent to move men to great achievement as a mouse to move the Himalayas. If you want to 'understand' everything about the Christian faith before you seek to make it known, you will never make it known. If you proclaim only those parts of it that you do 'understand,' you will find that the places on which you keep silence are the places that are most important." (P. 226.) And he tells them this: "Evangelical Protestantism has been much more willing to ask how much it must give up in order to remain intellectually respectable." (P. 170.) "The Church has languished when it has surrendered or modified or compromised these truths under the pressure of rationalism." (Page 98.)

dass zwo Personen ein Gott sind. Das lautet eben, als wenn ich sagte, zwei sind nicht zwei, sondern zwei sind eins. Da hast du das Wort und Vernunft widereinander; noch soll sie da die Meisterschaft legen und kein Richter noch Doctor werden, sondern das Huetlein abtun und sagen: Zwei sind eins, ob ich's schon nicht sehe noch verstehe, sondern ich glaube es. Warum? Um des willen, der es oben herab gesagt hat." (St. L., X, p. 1095.) Luther at Marburg: "Vernunft will ich nicht hoeren. Fleischliche Beweise, geometrische Argumente verwerfe ich genzlich.... Gott ist ueber alle Mathematik, und die Worte Gottes sind staunend anzubeten und zu tun. . . . Gott ist ueber alle Mathematik; Christus kann seinen Leib ohne Ort wie an einen Ort halten." (W. Koehler, Das Marburger Religionsgespraech, p. 9 ff.)

Yes, The Faith We Declare leaves a bad taste in the mouths of the Liberals. Lewis is demanding that they surrender their citadel, the authority of reason.

Will they do so? Not because of Lewis's attack. He is attacking them with a blunted sword. In fact, when they get the full import of the challenge and carefully study *The Faith We Declare*, they will say: Lewis is really one of us. The liberal reviewer declares: "This is a great book, greatly written—and greatly needed."

In an article appearing in the Christian Century of June 14 Dr. Lewis says: "My break with the futilities of Modernism and my acceptance of Christianity in its Biblical and historical self-presentation, were finally made definite by the publication of Rethinking Missions. I became convinced that what was proposed there was a virtual abandonment of the Christian Gospel." He makes the further remark: "In 1934 I published A Christian Manifesto. The book was hardly off the press before a minister of the Church, well known for his radicalism, called on me and denounced me vigorously for having 'flopped back into Fundamentalism.'" Is Dr. Lewis a Fundamentalist? Does he teach the absolute inerrancy of Holy Scripture and salvation through the vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ, the Son of God? The Faith We Declare shows definitely that he has not flopped back into Fundamentalism. It definitely puts him into the class of the Liberals.

The Liberals will have no fault to find with the view he takes of Holy Scripture. He does not believe that the Bible is the Word of God. He uses the Barthian phrase: "The Bible is the bearer to men of the Word of God." (P. 191.) He declares: "Without a doubt our fathers came very close to Bibliolatry: they could make no distinction between the Word of God and the words of men by which that Word was given." (P. 49.) "Out of the New Testament in its entirety we can gather the Word of God which is at the same time the Christian faith." (P. 151.) The Liberals, the most radical Liberals, will be ready to sit down with Lewis in a friendly conference and help him to "gather" out of the New Testament what they will agree to call the "Word of God." Lewis is not able to wield the sharp sword "'Thus saith the Lord,' for "Thus saith Scripture'" in his conflict with the Liberals. Giving up the absolute, the sole authority of Scripture, his dealings with them result in a sorry Appeasement. He has become helpless. All certainty is lost if the verbal inspiration of Scripture is surrendered. This is how Lewis speaks of inspiration: "Perhaps we even begin to see what the Church has meant in ascribing divine 'inspiration' to that activity of the Christian mind by which these great insights were reached." (P. 89.) He does not like the term "inspiration." 840

He uses quotation-marks, and he is justified in doing so because it would be a bad term to describe "an activity of the Christian mind." If you ask Lewis whether he believes in verbal inspiration, he declares: "One may read in amazement of the controversies connected with . . . the theory of Scripture. 'A plague on all your doctrines!' is on occasion an understandable enough exclamation." (P. 146.) Study these utterances: "The synoptic gospels themselves were the product of a Church which in its turn was the creation of a Christ-centered faith" (p. 75); "Jesus' words in the first place may have been spoken to promiscuous crowds; but later they were recaptured from memory by the Church and made a basis of Christian teaching" (p. 66); "Even if it be true that John 'took liberties with the history,' he took the liberties only that he might make the history more real, more vivid, more compelling" (p. 83); "Without a doubt one may discount the narratives [of the Resurrection]" (p. 80); "Some of the descriptions [in the Revelation of John] are in keeping with normal Jewish apocalyptic; others, for example that of the woman clothed with the sun in the twelfth chapter, are almost certainly derived from the widely spread primitive pagan myth of the recurring conflict between light and darkness" (p. 155), and you will see why the Liberals do not fear the challenge and the sword of Lewis. They will tell him: "You are one of us. You are willing to give up parts of the Bible, and you cannot blame us for giving up parts of the Bible." Lewis charges the Liberals with this: "In so far as they believe in the Bible, it is as a record of a segment of human history with a certain religious significance." (P. 134.) The Liberals answer by quoting Lewis: "The Christian does not approach God through a record, not even through a record so incomparable as that of the New Testament" (p. 93), and ask: Is your "record" of more real worth than our "record"? The liberal Christian Century has no fault to find with Lewis's book on this score. "It is a great book."

And now, the absolute authority of the Bible being removed, the Liberals and Lewis sit down in a friendly conference and discuss whether there is anything certain, stable, and abiding in the Christian teaching. Dr. Lewis is very agreeable. On the development of doctrine and related subjects he says: "The faith may never be expected to assume a final form." (P. 150.) It is all right with him, if "a man may not want to say it in just the way in which Paul said it." (P. 104.) He is liberal enough to say: "One may read in amazement of the controversies connected with the Person of Christ or with the Atonement or with the Eucharist or with Baptism or with the theory of Scripture. 'A plague on all your doctrines!' is on occasion an understandable enough exclamation." (P. 146.)

The chapter Continuity through Change begins with the question "How much can Christianity be changed and still remain the same?" The answer is that in "matters peripheral and evanescent" change is permissible and demanded, but that which "is central," that "which is centered in Jesus Christ," is "continuous, ageless." "You have the amplest intellectual freedom within the limits of the fundamental loyalty: "The Word [the Logos] became flesh." (P. 214 f.) In this connection he speaks of "certain archaic wrappings" from which the Gospel must be set free in order to modernize it (p. 182), of "new intellectual molds" for the old truths, called for by the "multiplicity of new insights" (p. 224), warns against "the rehabilitation of traditional formulations" (p. 223), and tells us that "nobody expects the Christian minister to be a phonograph repeating ancient shibboleths and phrases no longer intelligible" (p. 180). The Liberals do not find it hard to deal with Lewis. Why, he speaks their very language - "new intellectual molds," etc. - and is ready to surrender one Christian doctrine after the other under the stress of "the multiplicity of new insights." He indeed insists that the essentials of the Gospel must remain unchanged, but he has reduced the "essentials" to a very small compass. If one should ask him whether the teaching of the Church on the Personal Union, Justification by Faith (he mentions "justification by faith" on page 72 and quotes "He died for our sins and rose again for our justification" on page 76, but nowhere defines it), Baptism, the Lord's Supper, the nature of the Resurrection, etc., may be changed, he would exclaim: "A plague on all your doctrines." 2)

By the way, what does Lewis teach on the Virgin Birth? Did he flop back into Fundamentalism? "Whatever difficulties may be raised on critical and historical grounds as to the infancy narratives, and in particular on scientific and philosophic grounds as to the Virgin Birth, it is certain that these narratives and beliefs reflect a deep-seated conviction on the part of the early Church concerning the Lord," etc. (P. 87.) On scientific and philosophical grounds? Lewis has forgotten his brave words "I spit on the philosophy that cannot see beyond "Two plus two equals four." The Liberals are pleased. Another point has been yielded.

<sup>2)</sup> In view of Dr. Lewis's readiness to surrender a great part of the Christian teaching, a great many fundamental doctrines, the following stout words lose much of their force: "The preacher always preaches today, but what he preaches today must be that which was true yesterday and will be true forever. . . 'Give us a sure word!' This is the cry which we daily hear. 'We are lost in a jungle; lead us to the highway. Tell us, is there nowhere one word which stands above all other words, no truth of rocklike quality which nothing can move? Must we always flounder, must we always be experimenters, must we always build up only to tear down?'" (P.188 f.)

You cannot please the Liberals more than by making the distinction between essentials and peripheral doctrines for the purpose of declaring the latter to be evanescent and subject to change. When the Liberals hear the conservatives say: "Fundamentals are binding, but not the non-fundamentals," they know the battle is going their way.

The most extreme Liberals and Lewis get along well together. Lewis is liberal enough to declare that the Apology of Robert Barclay "retains the substance of the Christian faith" (p. 164): liberal enough to say: "Only occasionally does God give to His Church an Ephesian seer to write the fourth gospel or . . . a Thomas Aguinas to write a Summa Theologiae . . .: or shall we even say a Horace Bushnell to write a Vicarious Sacrifice?" (P. 174.) Lewis stands for the liberal freedom of thought. "Neo-orthodoxy is neither an impertinence nor an idle dream. It is an imperative necessity for the Church, especially for that part of the Church in which freedom of thought is still encouraged." (P. 173.) And so he takes up arms for the heretics. "Even so-called 'heresy' is a part of the total testimony. 'The Church's debt to heresy' is not merely a clever phrase; it represents an actual fact. Heresy is nearly always an overemphasis of a neglected truth." (P. 164.) Deal gently with Robert Barclay, for instance, for though his Apology is "an extreme reaction against ecclesiasticism, sacerdotalism, and sacramentalism," it nevertheless "retains the substance of the Christian faith" (same page). And the Creed of Chalcedon "rejected definitely four other possible explanations [of Jesus Christ's relation to God], each one of which had a following in the Church on the part of men of unquestioned loyalty to Christ" (p. 162). All is not well in the Church, and it is not well because of the men who, like Lewis, setting out to war against Liberalism, make concessions to Liberalism.

Of course, Lewis is a unionist. Every Liberal is a unionist, for Liberalism and indifferentism are one,—and every unionist is infected with the spirit of Liberalism. A typical statement: "Although there is only one Christian center, there are many radii proceeding from that center. Although there is only one rock upon which the Christian man may build, the superstructure arising from it will be now of one kind, now of another. The sacramentarian and the creedalist and the ethicist and the socialist and the mystic and the evangelical may all alike claim that in Jesus Christ is the inspiration of their faith, the source of their hope, the motive of their service, and the ground of that confidence with which they face the uncertainties of life's journey." (P. 102.) The Church is in an evil way when its leaders are willing to condone the least departure from the teaching of Christ, the teaching of Scripture.

But in his dealings with the radical Liberals Lewis is at any rate standing out for "the Christian center"? Matters peripheral "are evanescent," but that "which is centered in Jesus Christ is continuous": that cannot be surrendered. What does Lewis teach regarding the central doctrine of Christianity, salvation through the vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ, the Son of God? His presentation of "the essentials" is hazy enough to suit even radical Liberals. They are not going to quarrel with him on this score. Is Jesus Christ the Son of God, very God of very God? He says so often enough. "Very God appears as very man!" (P. 85.) He teaches the "preexistence of the Lord in the glory of the Father" (p. 88). "The Only-begotten of the Father" (p. 84). But then he also uses expressions like these: "It is Jesus whom John [in the fourth gospel] wants us to see, a Jesus incomparable, a Jesus inexplicable, a Jesus about whom nothing too great can be said, a Jesus to whom the very power and majesty of God Himself may be ascribed." (P. 82.) Again: "If Christ be the means of that reconciliation, it can be only because He is in Himself such a One as may still most fitly be described as at once Son of God and Son of Man." (P. 107.) Here one might fitly ask whether a doubt as to the real deity of Christ is expressed by the use of the auxiliary "may," which is at best an unhappy term to express reality. And what does this mean? "I believe that Jesus Christ was the eternal Word of God become flesh, that is to say, that in Him we are confronted with a self-revealing activity of God, which is unique in its character because its purpose is to redeem the world." (P. 218.) That is no longer merely hazy; it is a false definition of the godhead of Jesus. And this: "In Him, in Christ, we have the supreme and direct form of divine sacrificial saving activity. Here the strong hand of God has reached down into the confines of time as it reached nowhere else. This gives Jesus Christ a certain apartness from every other man. . . . " Thus "Christ grows to His stature as the eternal Son of the Father" (p. 215 f.). Can Lewis say nothing better for Christ than that He has "a certain apartness from every other man"?3) Lewis says:

<sup>&</sup>quot;very God and very man" and then explains the term thus: "He is the Christ, the Messiah in whom God's saving purpose for the world found full expression. He is our Lord, the Master of our lives, to whom we owe an obedience no man can claim. He is the Son of God, knowing God with a knowledge we can fully trust. He is the Word become flesh, God revealing Himself in human form. So we, too, may use the great words of the 'Nicene' Creed, He is very God and very man. . . . It is in Him that God reconciles the world unto Himself. God's glory has been seen in the face of Jesus Christ, the glory of the Father's holy love." (What Shall We Say of Christ, p. 241.) No better than Otto Justus Baab, who says that Jesus is the Son of God, and speaks of "the

"We can declare that a man living now, trained in the science of history, competent in the field of New Testament criticism, familiar with the processes of thought in the first Christian century, is still able to say, with complete sincerity, 'I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary.' . . ." (P. 113.) He has told us that he does not believe in a literal Virgin Birth. That was only a peculiar mode of expressing something else. Does he believe that Jesus is the Son of God in the literal meaning of that term? — When he says: "Is it that they [the extreme Liberals] want the old terms dropped because they have ceased to believe what the old terms represent?" these men might answer: Are you willing to use the old terms, but in a sense different from what they originally carried?

Finally, what of the doctrine of the vicarious atonement? The term "vicarious" is never used by Lewis. That, in itself, might mean nothing, but he nowhere uses an exact synonym and equivalent. He uses the terms "redemption," "reconciliation," and even the term "satisfaction" and declares: "The Son of God came among men to suffer and die on their behalf." (P. 67.) But this does not mean what the Christian Church has always understood by these "One sometimes turns away, dismayed that holy things should be so crudely treated, loaded down with gross materialism, concealed rather than illuminated by impossible metaphors and incredible analogies. 'Infinite merit was concealed in every drop of blood that was shed on Calvary.'. . . One reads expressions such as these, and it is not difficult to understand why many people look upon Christianity as 'a religion of blood and bargain." (P. 95.) How, then, was the atonement made and the reconciliation effected? "The Christian faith is the declaration of God's will to redeem; but to redeem how? To redeem by personally thrusting Himself into the very inwardness of the corrupted stream of human life to establish there a power of purification." (P. 91.) expressions are not merely hazy, but they deny outright what Scripture teaches concerning vicarious satisfaction. The atonement taught by Lewis hinges upon the transformation that takes place in man as a result of Christ's work. "It is a suffering that engenders redeeming power. It means contact with sin, but it is a contact which makes possible sin's destruction." (P. 93.) "You are to declare that in the Incarnation, God has made known once and

very divinity of Christ" but adds: "We mean, then, that Jesus is so uniquely and concretely related to the power we call God that His divinity is beyond dispute," and: "But this is quite different from ascribing deity to Jesus." (Jesus Christ, Our Lord, p. 41, 57.) No better than H.L. Willett, who, writing in the Question Box of the Christian Century, calls Jesus the "Only-begotten," meaning: "Unique, unusual, rare, wonderful, unexampled, preeminent, well-pleasing, beloved."

for always the steadiness of God's hatred of sin and the steadiness of His love for man. You are to declare the possibility of a relationship being established between God, a creative God of holy love, and sinful men. You are to declare a persistent but conditioned activity of the Divine Spirit which is concerned to bear upon the hearts and consciences of men the impact of what God in Christ has done on their behalf." (P. 219.) Lewis has learned much of his theology from Ritschl and from the other fathers of Liberalism. He makes, in spite of his strong words to the contrary, ethics the basis of Christianity. Rejecting the teaching that "infinite merit was contained in every drop of blood that was shed on Calvary," he proceeds to proclaim "the greatest truths ever offered to the minds of men. It is the truth of 'God manifest in the flesh for us men and for our salvation.' It is the truth that the source of the power that transforms and lifts" (italics ours) "is outside of our race but has poured this power into our race and has made it available to every individual. . . . Just this is what was created by the Incarnation." (P. 95 f.) Atonement is brought about by the transformation of man. Is there a Liberal who will not agree with such a teaching? 4)

The liberal reviewer does not like certain things in *The Faith We Declare*. "There is still too generous an adherence to the shibboleths and slogans of Fundamentalism." But seeing in what sense Lewis uses these ancient shibboleths, he is, after all, quite satisfied with Lewis's theology. "This is a great book." <sup>5)</sup>

TH. ENGELDER

<sup>4)</sup> Dr. F. Pieper: "Kirn teaches: 'We are compelled to make the transformation of man a factor in the work of the atonement.' That means: We are compelled to divest the Christian teaching of its Christian character and to transform it into a Romish-pagan doctrine of ethics or of works. That holds good with regard to all the theories of the atonement with which our age would supplant the satisfactio vicaria." (Chr. Dog., II, p. 430.) — We add a few statements from Dr. Lewis's book Great Christian Teachings, published in 1933, which show that we have understood him correctly: atonement hinges on man's transformation. "To love and to live and to think and to serve as Christ loved and lived and thought and served — that is to attain the Christian salvation." — The Father permitted Jesus to die as a criminal "not because there had to be satisfaction of His justice before He could forgive men, not because He demanded a sacrifice as a condition of His being gracious." — "The cross saves us only as we share it. . . . Jesus Christ made our salvation possible, but we have to convert the possibility into actuality." (See C. T. M., IV, p. 757 f.)

<sup>5)</sup> After the above was written, the September issue of the Journal of the Am. Luth. Conf. came to hand. It reprints an article from the Lutheran Herald and gives it the heading "Hopeful — with Reservations." Here are a few excerpts from the article: "A Christian Manifesto was Dr. Lewis's confession of his errors in this respect in the past and a declaration of faith in the old fundamentals of the Christian religion.... In the Christian Century, issue of June 14, Dr. Lewis speaks of 'my break with the futilities of Modernism and my acceptance of Chris-

# Predigtentwürfe für die Evangelien der Thomasius= Berikopenreihe

## Zweiundzwanzigster Sonntag nach Trinitatis

Qut. 10, 17-22

Menschen sehen in der Regel auf Auherlichkeiten. "Ein Mensch siehet, was der Augen ist", 1 Sam. 16, 7. Darum beurteilt man oft alle Unternehmungen der Menschen nach Zahlen und Dimensionen, und der Erfolg, auch in kirchlicher Arbeit, wird nach zufriedenstellender Statistif demessen. Ih der Zuwachs an Gliedern groß, hat man eine neue, große Kirche oder eine prächtige Schule gebaut oder ein sonstiges Unternehmen glücklich hinausgeführt, so ist das Urteil über den Erfolg der kirchlichen Arbeit in der betreffenden Gemeinde in der Regel ohne weiteres günstig. — Schauen wir aber auf das Wort Gottes, so mag allerdings äußerer Erfolg mit ein Merkmal inneren Wachstums sein; aber dies Tatsache ist durchaus nicht an und sür sich ausschlagsgebend. Der Heiland gibt uns in unserm Tegt unter anderm die Richtlinien an, nach denen wir den Erfolg der Arbeit im Reiche Gottes bemessen sollen.

#### Der Erfolg ber Arbeit im Reiche Gottes

- 1. nach menfolicher Unichauungsweife
- 2. nach bem Urteil bes Beilanbes

#### 1

Die Aussendung der siedzig Jünger wird am Anfang unsers Kaspitels erzählt, und der Herr hatte diesen Sendlingen aussührliche Answeisungen gegeben. Sie waren in der Tat wandernde Prediger oder

tianity in its Biblical and historical self-presentation' as being final. So the author of A Christian Manifesto, after five years, reaffirms his acceptance of the Christian faith. . . . On the other hand, it would be a mistake if we were to believe that the victory of evangelical Christianity over unbelief and false doctrine is complete. In the first place, seeing the futility of Modernism does not necessarily mean the instant acceptance of full evangelical truth. . . Nor let us forget that so far it is the leaders of Liberalism who have begun to see the errors of their ways. . . . It may take an entirely new generation of preachers before the errors of the past decades are obliterated from many Christian pulpits. . . . Finally, it will be well for the Lutheran Church to bear in mind that a conservative Christian of the Reformed Church is not a Lutheran. That is why Lutheranism was never able to make common cause with the so-called Fundamentalists. . . . " The closing paragraph reads: "And yet—let it be said again—in spite of the reservations we must make, it should be a source of genuine joy and thanksgiving that a large part of Christendom in America, after two decades of wandering through the morasses of human reason, is getting its feet back on the solid ground of revealed truth." When the writer of the above reads The Faith We Declare, he will revise his judgment that Dr. Lewis is back on the solid ground of revealed truth and has broken with the futilities of Modernism.

Evangelisten, die die Botschaft vom Reich Gottes verkündigen sollten. — Als diese Männer von ihrer Missionsreise zum Heiland zurückehrten, waren sie besonders hochersreut über die Art und Weise, wie die göttsliche Macht sich durch sie bewiesen hatte, V. 17. Die Tatsache, daß sogar die Teusel ihnen untertan waren, schien ihnen der wichtigste Teil ihres Ersolges zu sein.

Der Heiland gibt ihnen die Belehrung, deren sie bedurften, B. 18 f. Es war allerdings an dem, daß sich der Herr durch ihre Arbeit als der Bezwinger des Satans offenbarte. Und auch zu ihrer Person hatte sich der Heiland dadurch bekannt, daß er sie in besonderer Beise in ihrer Arbeit als Wissionare beschützte. Aber sofort macht er auch darauf ausmerksam, daß diese Beweise seiner göttlichen Macht nicht der Haudt zwei dei ihrer Sendung waren, sondern daß der eigentliche Grund ihrer Freude darin bestehen sollte, daß ihre Namen im Himmel angeschrieben seien, B. 20.

In diesem Unterricht des Heilandes liegt auch für uns eine große Bahrheit. In der Arbeit des Reiches Gottes sollen nicht sensationelle Unternehmungen die Hauptrolle spielen, wie wir denn auch nicht besonders barauf aus fein sollen, in die Augen springende Erfolge zu erzielen. Allerdings tann ber Beiland auch auf diese Beise fich gu unserer Arbeit bekennen, und feine Sand ift bis auf ben heutigen Tag nicht berfürzt. Bgl. Pf. 91, 13; Mark. 16, 18. Wir follen uns gang besonders immer wieder an die Tatsache erinnern, daß ohne seinen Billen fein haar bon unserm haupt auf die Erde fallen tann. Er ift mit und bei uns, uns zu behüten in bem Bert ber Reichgottesarbeit, bie wir auf feinen Befehl berrichten. — Aber die Sauptfache ift und bleibt bis auf diesen Tag die treue, ftille Arbeit am Evangelium, besonders auch durch das Reugnis von der Gewisheit, die wir haben, daß unfere Namen im Simmel angefdrieben find. Bgl. 3ef. 49, 16; 30h. 10, 28. So wird die blog menschliche Anschauungsweise von der Arbeit im Reich Gottes bon bem BErrn gurechtgeftellt.

9

Der Heiland zeigt nun noch im besonderen, worin nach seinem Urteil der Ersolg der Arbeit im Reiche Gottes besteht. Es ist derselbe Gedanke, den der Apostel 1 Kor. 1, 18—31 aussührt. Die Predigt von der seligmachenden Gnade, das teuerwerte Bort, daß JEsus Christus gesommen ist in die Belt, die Sünder selig zu machen, bleibt sehr ost vor den Augen und Ohren der Klugen und Beisen dieser Belt versorgen, während sie den Herzen der Unmündigen offenbart wird. Bas 2 Kor. 4, 6 gesagt ist, trifft immer wieder dei der Predigt des Evangeliums zu, nämlich daß der Herr durch dieses Licht einen hellen Schein in die Herzen gibt und sie so zur Ersenntnis der Bahrheit bringt. Darin liegt der eigentliche Ersolg der Arbeit im Reiche Gottes, B. 21.

Und die Bahrheit bon der Seligfeit durch den Glauben an die

Erlösung burch Christi Blut bringt die andere Wahrheit mit sich, daß die Ossenbarung der Person und des Werkes Christi nur durch die Gnadenwirkung Gottes im Wort geschehen kann, V. 22. Dem Sohne ist nach Gottes gnädigem Kat und Willen alles übergeben. Vgl. Matth. 28, 18. Und durch die Erkenntnis des Sohnes wird die Erkenntnis des Baters im Herzen der Menschen gewirkt. Vgl. Joh. 6, 44; 14, 6—13; 17, 3; 1, 18. Nur durch diese Offenbarung kann ein Mensch die Wahrheit von der Erlösung durch Christum erkennen; denn menschliche Vernunft und Kraft ist nicht imstande, dieses Wunder zu begreisen. Aber eben darin besteht der Ersolg der Arbeit im Keiche Gottes, daß Menschen zu dieser seligmachenden Erkenntnis der Wahrsheit in Christo kommen.

## Dreinnbzwanzigster Sonntag nach Trinitatis

Qut. 13, 23-30

Wir wissen nicht, was den Fragesteller bewog, die Frage an JEsum zu richten, B. 23. Dem Herzenskündiger gesiel die Frage nicht. Daher gab er ihm und allen dort Anwesenden — und gibt auch uns — zu verstehen, daß es wichtiger ist, auf die eigene Seligkeit bedacht zu sein. Er ruft uns allen zu:

### "Ringet banach, bag ihr burch bie enge Bforte eingehet!"

- Denn viele werben trot ihres Trachtens nicht hineinkommen
- 2. Es ift nicht unmöglich, in Gottes Reich eins zugehen

Der Herr Jesus richtete seine Mahnung nicht in erster Linie an Kirchlose, sondern an solche, die dem Bolk Gottes gliedlich angehörten. Das geht klar hervor aus B. 26. Sie alle wollten selig werden. Sie alle trachteten mit mehr oder weniger Eiser danach, in den Himmel zu kommen. Keiner wollte zu den Berkluchten gehören. So hören auch heute in der christlichen Gemeinde alle Gottes Bort. Alle sind getauft. Alle Kommunizierenden gehen zum Abendmahl. Alle gehen mit Christo und seinen Brüdern und Schwestern um, essen und trinken vor ihm, laden ihn im Tischgebet zu Caste. Alle gebärden sich äußerlich als Kinder Gottes, als Christen. Werden sie deswegen alle ins Himmelsreich kommen?

B. 24 b gibt uns die Antwort. Biele trachten danach und werden boch nicht hineinkommen. Die Pforte ift ihnen zu eng, nicht weil Gott etwa von Ewigkeit beschlossen hätte, nur wenige Menschen zu erlösen, die meisten zu verdammen; auch nicht weil Gott es mit seiner Einladung nicht ernstlich meinte. Wir wissen: 1 Tim. 2, 4; Hesel. 33, 11. Die Pforte ist ihnen einzig und allein deswegen zu eng, weil sie entweder ihre Sünden, die Gott ein Greuel sind, nicht lassen wollen, Pf. 5, 4—6,

oder ihre Selbstgerechtigkeit festhalten wollen, Jes. 64, 6; Matth. 5, 20. Alle solche wollen nicht durch die eine enge Pforte, Christus, durch die man allein durch wahre Herzensbuße eingehen kann, in den Himmel geslangen. Die werden an jenem Tage das Wort hören: "Ich kenne euer nicht, wo ihr her seid", V. 25. Er kennt sie nicht, weil sie eben nicht die Seinen sein noch ihn als ihren einigen Helbstgerechten Fleisch. Im Leben wollten sie dienten sich selber, ihrem sündeliebenden, selbstgerechten Fleisch. Im Leben wollten sie nichts von JEsu wissen; nun erkennt er sie nicht als die Seinen an. Das wird ihnen als unerwartete Schreckensbotschaft kommen. Sie werden ihm vorhalten: V. 26. Aber wer nicht glaubt, der wird verdammt, Mark. 16, 16; Apost. 4, 12. Darum bleibt die Tür zum Himmel in alle Ewigkeit für sie verschlossen.

Soll der Heiland einst zu dir sagen: Weiche von mir? O schrecks licher Gedanke! Darum ringe danach, durch die enge Pforte einzusgehen! Bitte Gott um wahre Buke, um rechte Sündenerkenntnis, um rechten Herzensglauben. Halte dich an deinen Heiland und laß dich nichts von ihm abbringen; dann wirst auch du eingehen zur ewigen Seligkeit.

2

Es ift nicht unmöglich, ins Reich Gottes zu tommen. Es gibt eine Pforte zum ewigen Leben, JEsum Christum, Joh. 10, 9; 14, 6. Diese Pforte fteht allen offen, und JEsus labet alle Menschen ein, Matth. 11, 28. Ja, ber Bater felber ift es, ber ben Glauben wirkt und baburch Menschen zum Beiland und in ben himmel zieht, Joh. 6, 44. So find Abraham, Isaat, Jatob, alle Propheten ins Reich Gottes eingegangen, 1 Mof. 15, 6; 49, 18. Richt nur biefe Großen werben fiben im himmelreich, fondern bon allen Eden und Enden der Erde werden tommen, die zu Tische fiben werden im Reich Gottes, B. 29. Bahrend folde, die Erfte zu fein icheinen, oft Lette werben, werden viele, die jest noch Lette find, die Ersten sein im Simmelreich; nicht weil fie bon Natur besser waren als andere, nicht weil sie sich so abgemüht haben, sondern weil sie fich in der Erkenntnis ihrer Sündhaftigkeit durch Gottes Enade an den Beiland hielten, durch den allein, aber auch gang gewiß, man felig werden kann. Die bienen ihm bann auch in Liebe und Dankbarkeit und tun Fleiß, ihren Beruf und ihre Ermählung fest zu machen; benn welche folches tun, werden nicht straucheln, sondern es wird ihnen reichlich dargereicht werden der Eingang zu dem ewigen Reich unsers Berrn und Beilandes Jesu Chrifti, 2 Betr. 1, Darum ringet danach, durch die enge Pforte einzugehen! Th. Lätsch

## Bierundzwanzigster Sonntag nach Trinitatis

Matth. 24, 1-14

Durch die Sünde ist nicht nur der Tod einzelner (Röm. 5, 12 ff.), sondern auch die Bernichtung vieler auf einmal in die Welt gekommen,

850

3. B. die Sintflut, 1 Mos. 7; Sodom, 1 Mos. 19; die doppelte Zersftörung Jerusalems, 2 Kön. 24, 25; unser Text. Alle diese Zerstösrungen zeigen den Zorn Gottes über die Sünde, Ps. 90, 7 ff., und mahnen uns an das Endgericht, das einmal gewiß über die Welt kommen wird. An den Jüngsten Tag denken wir besonders am Ende des Kirchenjahres.

## Chrifti Beisfagungen in bezug auf bie Beit vor bem Jüngften Gericht

- 1. Die näheren Umftänbe, unter benen bie Beis= fagungen an bie Jünger gerichtet wurben
- 2. Die ernsten Barnungen, bie barin ausge= fprochen werben
- 3. Die tröftlichen Berheißungen, die wir Rinder Gottes darin finden

#### 1

Es find ernfte Beissagungen, die wir im Tert finden. Und fie wurden zur ernften Stunde an Chrifti Junger gerichtet. hatte die letten Mahnworte den Juden zugerufen, und zwar in der Beiligen Boche, als er in Jerusalem eingezogen war, um bort zu leiben und zu fterben, Rap. 21. Befonders am Dienstag diefer Boche richtete er ernfte Warnungen an die Pharifaer, Rap. 22, ja fprach über fie bas vielseitige Beh aus, Rap. 23. Seine zu Bergen gebenbe Bufpredigt folog mit ber Gerichtsberfundigung, 23, 37-39. Dann ging er hinaus aus dem Tempel, wo er sein lettes Zeugnis abgelegt hatte, verkündigte die Zerstörung des Tempels, B. 1. 2, und als er dann öftlich bon Jerusalem, etwa eine Stunde Begs entfernt, mit feinen Jüngern auf dem Olberg faß, um nach dem schweren Tagewert ein wenig zu ruhen, da beantwortete er gütig die beiden Fragen der Jünger, B. 3. Behalten wir diese ernste Stunde im Auge! Betrachten wir bon biesem großen Ernst aus bas Ende ber Belt und was biesem Ende borbergeht!

Ach, wie leicht nimmt es doch die Welt und das böse Fleisch der Christen mit der Sünde! So vielen ist sie nur eine Neinigkeit. Darum nehmen sie es auch nicht ernst mit Christi Warnung vor dem Gericht über die Sünde. (Beispiele: die Sintslut, Jerusalems Zerstörung.) So nehmen viele auch die Weissagungen von dem Endgericht und den Zeichen der Zeit nicht ernst, 2 Petr. 3, 4. Wir Christen haben diese Weissagungen so oft gehört, daß auch wir sie kaum so ernstlich detrachten, als wir sollten. Vergegenwärtigen wir uns daher die ernsten Zeitumstände, unter denen sie geredet wurden: sie waren Christi lehte große Prophezeiung vor seinem Leiden, die ebenso gewiß in Ersüllung gehen wird, wie die über die Zerstörung Jerusalems. Wie schrecklich wird darum das Endgericht sein!

In unferm Text beschreibt Chriftus die Reichen ber Beit bor bem Untergang der Belt. Er spricht in seinen Beissagungen ernste Barnungen aus, die uns die Schrecklichkeit des Beltuntergangs fehr wohl andeuten. Es find fürwahr ernfte Zeichen ber Zeit, die uns unfer hochgelobter Heiland hier als nötige Warnungen ins Herz schreibt. Betrachten wir fie daher mit rechtem Christenernst!

Bunächst warnt uns der Beiland bor ben großen und mannig= faltigen Verführungen ber letten Zeit, B. 4.5. Berführer hat es ja immer gegeben, seitdem die erste Verführerin, die Schlange im Paradies, Eba betrogen hat, 1 Tim. 2, 14. Aber bor dem Ende der Welt werden fich diese Verführungen immer mehr häufen. (Beispiele aus der Kirchengeschichte in alter und neuer Zeit.)

Sodann warnt uns Chriftus bor Angft und Berzweiflung in ber großen irdischen Not, die die Welt vor ihrem Ende treffen wird, B. 6-8. Bie die Verführungen, so gehören auch Kriege, Seuchen, teure Zeiten und Erdbeben zu ben Zeichen der Zeit, find somit auch alle ernfte Warnungen Gottes. Wir sollen daher fleißig darauf achten und bebenken, was Gott uns damit fagen will. (Beifpiele.)

Beiter fagt der HErr gewaltige Chriftenverfolgungen, die die wahren Kinder Gottes bor dem Beltende treffen werden, boraus, B. 9. Schon zu Anfang der driftlichen Kirche hat fich diese Beissagung Chrifti ja aufs Bort erfüllt; ferner gur Zeit ber Reformation. (Beifpiele.) Aber vor bem Ende der Belt wird Satan noch einmal Chrifti Junger aufs grimmigste angreifen und ihnen bas antun, wobon ber Beiland B. 9. 11 redet: große, schwere leibliche und geiftliche Berfolgungen werben die Rirche treffen.

Aber nicht nur von außen, sondern auch von innen wird die Rirche angefochten werden, B. 10. In der leiblichen und geiftlichen Berfolgung der letten Zeit werden sich viele des Namens Chrifti ichamen, bom Ebangelium abfallen, felbit die ichlimmiten Feinde der Jünger JEsu sein, werden die wahren Kinder Gottes haffen und berraten. Damit geht zusammen B. 12. So wird es in der Belt wie in ber äußeren Rirche bofe fteben. Berführungen aller Art, Rriege, Seuchen, teure Zeiten, Erdbeben, Verfolgungen von allen Seiten, Ungerechtigkeit, Lieblofigkeit - bas alles find die Zeichen der letten Zeit; und so warnt uns benn ber Beiland, bamit wir in dieser bofen Beit ja feststehen und nicht bom Glauben abfallen, B. 13. Darauf spitt fich schlieflich die gange Beisfagung unfers Seilandes qu: wir follen beharren.

3

In Chrifti Beissagung finden sich aber doch auch tröftliche Berbeifzungen, B. 13b. Biebiel ift nicht in diesen furgen Borten ents halten! Ja, auch die lette Zeit vor dem Beltgericht ift Seligkeitszeit. Solange die Erde steht, können Sünder selig werden, B. 24. Gottes Auserwählte werben nicht verführt, sondern eingebracht in das Reich Gottes. Benuhen wir daher die uns übrigdleibende Zeit zur Erstangung der Seligkeit! Wir haben ja Gottes Wort rein und lauter. Sorgen wir, daß wir mit unsern Lieben und vielen andern selig werden durch den Glauben an Christum JEsum! Denn Gott will uns selig machen, 1 Tim. 2, 1—6.

Bu dieser tröstlichen Berheißung kommt noch B. 14. Das bedeutet nicht, daß alle Bölker bekehrt werden. Nach der Schrift gibt es kein Tausendjähriges Reich; denn Christus sagt ausdrücklich: "zu einem Zeugnis über alle Bölker". Alle Bölker werden das Evangelium hören, aber nicht alle werden es annehmen. Dennoch wird aus allen Bölkern die Schar der Auserwählten eingebracht werden. O wie tröstlich ist dies für uns, die wir Christi "kleine Herde" sind! Luk. 12, 32. Aber wie wichtig ist es auch, daß wir als Kinder Gottes und Jünger Fcsu sein Wort aller Welt verkündigen! Mark. 16, 15. 16; Matth. 28, 19. 20; 1 Petr. 2, 9. Denn durch uns will Christus sein Evangelium predigen lassen. (Beispiele: Bibelverbreitung, Nadiopredigten, Traktatenberteilung, Aussendung von Arbeitern usw.)

Anwendung. Warnung und Berheißung — beides wird uns im Text dargeboten von unserm Heiland in ernster Stunde. Wie wollen wir uns zu seinem Wort stellen? Hebr. 3, 7. 8. I. Wüller

## Fünfundzwanzigster Sonntag nach Trinitatis

3 oh. 11, 21—27

Es ist der letzte Sonntag im Kirchenjahr. Die Epistel und das Evangelium handeln vom Jüngsten Tage. Große Not und Trübsal soll der letzten Zeit vorangehen, Matth. 24, 6—21. Schon jetzt leiden Christen oft Kummer und Herzeleid. Zur Vorbereitung auf die Not der letzten Zeit müssen sie lernen, wie sie sich in schweren Zeiten bershalten sollen.

### Wie Chriften fich im fdweren Rreng verhalten

- 1. Gie fühlen ichmerglich bie Trübfal
- 2. Gie laffen nicht nach im Gebet
- 3. Sie beharren fest im Gottbertrauen

1

Zwischen den drei Geschwistern in unserm Text und dem Heiland bestand ein enges Freundschaftsband. Jesus verweilte gerne in ihrem Heim; sie hatten es gern, wenn er dort einsehrte. Wo es so in einem Hause steht, da kann man Glück und Zufriedenheit sinden. Wo man mit Andacht betet: "Komm, Herr Jesu, sei unser Cast", da wird man glückliche Leute antressen. Aber manchmal scheint das Glück zu weichen. So ging es hier. Tiese Betrübnis war an die Stelle des Glückes ges

treten. Lazarus war frank geworben und war gestorben. Die beiben Schwestern waren in tiese Trauer versetzt worden. Fast klingt es wie ein Borwurf, wenn Martha zum Heiland spricht: B. 21. Wir haben dir doch Nachricht gesandt; aber du bist nicht gekommen; du hättest doch so leicht helsen können!

So ergeht es oft im Leben der Chriften. Sie leben in Liebessgemeinschaft mit JEsu. In ihrem Glauben an den Heiland und in seiner Liebe finden sie ihr Glück. Aber oft geschieht es, daß dieses Glück gestört wird. Es kommt Krankseit, Not und Tod. Wie viele Thristen, auch unter uns, haben das schon ersahren! Wie viele müssen: Lied 385, 1! Da klagen Christen oft: Wie schwer ist doch mein Kreuz! Warum muß ich so leiden? Was habe ich getan, daß dieses Unglück mich trifft? Gott hätte es doch ganz anders machen können. So geraten Christen wohl in tiese Betrübnis. Der Glaube ertötet nicht die natürlichen Empfindungen des Christen. Er fühlt und fühlt oft schmerzlich den Verlust, das Kreuz.

2

Aber inmitten ihrer großen Trübsal lassen Christen doch nicht nach im Gebet. Martha spricht zu dem Herrn: B. 22. Sie ersleht seine Fürbitte und Hilfe. Sie glaubt, daß er helsen kann. Sie stellt keine Forderung. Wohl hatte sie zuerst einen leisen Vorwurf ausgesprochen, B. 21. Aber sie hatte sich schnell eines Bessern besonnen. Es kann bei einem Christen vorkommen, daß er auf solche Gedanken gerät. Aber solche Gedanken sinden nicht lange Raum in dem Herzen eines Ehristen.

Martha bittet: Hilf mir! So verhalten sich alle frommen Christen. Im Kummer beten sie. Sie halten sich an Gottes Besehl und Bersheißung. Sie stellen nicht etwa Forderungen an den lieben Gott. Sie erkennen, daß sie wegen ihrer Sünde nicht wert sind, daß sihre Gebete erhört werden sollten. Aber sie glauben doch, daß sie durch Christum Gottes Kinder sind und daß der liebe Gott aus Gnade und Barmherzigkeit ihre Gebete erhören wird. Darum lassen sie nicht nach im Gebet, wenn sie in Not geraten. Not lehrt sie beten. Sie beten: Hilf mir, lieber Gott, wenn es dein Wille ist! Und schon viele Christen haben bekannt, daß Gott ihre Gebete erhört hat.

3

Darum beharren Christen sest in ihrem Gottvertrauen, auch wenn die Not groß wird. Wenn die Not am größten, ist Gott am nächsten. Der Heiland tröstet Wartha mit den Worten: B. 23. Ja, das weiß sie wohl, B. 24. Aber JEsus hat etwas anderes im Sinn; er bezeitet Wartha darauf vor, B. 25. 26. Sie soll sehen, daß er Macht hat über Leben und Tod. Und als er ihr das gesagt hatte, antwortete sie: B. 27. Welch ein Gottvertrauen! Sie glaubt, daß Christus Gottes Sohn ist, daß er alles tun kann, daß er Lazarus vom Tode erweden kann.

Solches Gottvertrauen sollen wir bei allen Christen sinden. Mag die Rot auss äußerste steigen, Christen beharren im Gottvertrauen. "Größer als der Helser ist die Rot ja nicht." Christen glauben an die Allmacht, die Allwissenheit und die Liebe Gottes. Sie glauben, daß Gott helsen kann und will. Bon der Liebe Gottes haben Christen einen herrlichen Beweiß: Gott hat seinen eingebornen Sohn gesandt, um die Menschen von Sünde, Tod und Teusel zu erlösen. Hat Gott die se Liebe erwiesen, so wird er auch in irdischer Rot helsen.

Christen beharren in ihrem Gottbertrauen. Gerne beten sie die Worte des 23. Psalm; sie sprechen: Lied 354, 1. Bon solchen Christen beist es: Ses. 40, 31.

Wohl erfahren wir Christen Trübsal; aber wir bleiben am Beten, und wir beharren im Gottvertrauen. So wollen wir bleiben inmitten der Not auf Erden, bis wir endlich droben im Himmel selig sind, aller Not entsernt. F. Niedner

### Danftag

### 1 Mof. 32, 10

Mit Freuden kommen wir heute ins Gotteshaus, um den nationalen Danktag miteinander zu feiern. Dazu haben wir Chriften alle Ursache; denn wir kennen den Geber alles Guten, den dreieinigen Gott. Bei uns ift die heutige Feier ein Bekenntnis unsers Glaubens. (Erster Urtikel.) Andere kennen den gütigen göttlichen Geber nicht oder ehren ihn doch nicht, schreiben sich selber den Ersolg zu. Wir dagegen: Lied 350, 8. Wir haben unserm Gott viel zu verdanken. Unser Text nennt uns vornehmlich zwei Gründe, weshalb wir fröhlich Danktag feiern sollen.

### Bwei Grunbe, bie uns gum Danten bewegen follen

1. Gottes Treue 2. Gottes Barmbergigfeit

1

Der Patriarch Jakob steht an der Grenze des Heiligen Landes. Hinter ihm liegt Wesopotamien, wo er zwanzig Jahre zugebracht und wo Gott ihn so reichlich gesegnet hat; vor ihm das Land, das seinen Bätern und ihm verheißen ist, Kanaan, mit fruchtbaren Tälern usw. In seinem Leben sieht er überall Spuren göttlichen Segens. Es war dies wieder ein denkwürdiger Tag in seinem Leben. Engel waren ihm erschienen, ihn zu stärken und ihren Schuh ihm zuzusgagen, da er nicht ohne Grund sich vor Esau fürchtete. Als er sie sah, sprach er: 32, 2. Schon auf dem Hinweg, als er vor Esau sloh, waren ihm Engel bei Bethel erschienen. Run besam er wieder die Berheißung des göttlichen Schuhes. Indem er dies bedachte und den Segen Gottes erwog, mußte er ausbrechen in die Worte: B. 10a; das um so mehr, als er besennen mußte: B. 10b. Zwanzig Jahre voll Wühe und Leides und Ents

täuschungen lagen hinter ihm, 1 Mos. 31, 40—42. Gott hatte ihn tropdem überreichlich gesegnet. Sagt, hatte Jakob nicht Ursache zu innigem Dank gegen Gott? Und zwar war es besonders die Treue Gottes, die er rühmte. Bas der Herr an ihm getan hatte und noch tat, war alles nur Erfüllung seiner Berheißung. Er hatte Abraham und Isaak die Treue geschworen, ihnen verheißen, ihr Gott zu sein, ihnen und ihren zahlreichen Nachsommen Kanaan zu geben. Bei Bethel hatte er Jakob diese Berheißung wiederholt, 1 Mos. 28, 13—16. Auf Gottes Besehl war Jakob nun umgekehrt, 1 Mos. 31, 3. Bohl konnte er nun die Treue seines Gottes rühmen.

Wir haben denfelben Grund wie Jatob, heute Gott von Bergen gu danken. Denn wir hatten ursprünglich auch nichts in unserer Hand, weder geiftliche noch irdische Güter. Bas waren wir von Natur? Sünder, ohne Gerechtigkeit, fremde von den Testamenten der Berbeigung, ohne Gott und ohne hoffnung in der Belt. Aber wir find burch seine Gnade zum Glauben gekommen; wir haben sein Wort rein und unverfälscht; wir haben Bergebung durch Chrifti Blut, die felige Hoffnung bes himmels. Und was hatten wir an irdischen Gütern? Bir haben nichts in die Belt gebracht. Gott hat uns reichlich gesegnet, und Leib und Seele, Augen und Ohren, Bernunft und alle Sinne gegeben, uns berfeben mit allem Rötigen zu unferm Unterhalt. Gerabe auch wenn wir auf das vergangene Jahr bliden, finden wir nichts als lauter göttliche Gute. "In wiebiel Rot hat nicht ber gnäbige Gott über bir Flügel gebreitet!" Gerade auch wenn wir unfer Los mit bem Los anderer vergleichen, finden wir, wiebiel Urfache gum Danken wir haben. Auch wir find "zwei Heere worden".

Es ift besonders Gottes Treue, der wir diese Gaben und Güter zu verdanken haben. Schon in der Tause hat Gott mit uns einen Enadensbund gemacht. Hat er etwa diesen Bund nicht gehalten? Phil. 1, 6. Seine Berheißungen gehen aber auch auf das Frdische. Ich will mit dir sein, ich will dir wohltun, sagt auch uns der Herr, Matth. 6, 25 ff. "In ihm leben, weben und sind wir." "Er sorget für euch." Ja, selbst in Trübsal und Not will er bei uns sein. Ist's nicht wahr, daß Gott sich treu geblieben ist, sein Wort auch an uns wahr gemacht hat? Jos. 21, 45; Ps. 33, 4. Drum freut euch und dankt; laßt euch nicht durch Kummer und Gram die Freude verderben! — Aber Gott ist nicht nur allmächtig, nicht nur treu und wahrhaftig, sondern auch barmsherzig und von großer Güte.

2

Das rühmen wir zum andern: Gottes Barmherzigkeit. Jakob war ganz beschämt angesichts des göttlichen Segens. Er denkt an die vielen Sünden, die ihm noch ankleben, an die Schuld, die er bei Gott hat. Hat wohl etwas verdient, aber nur Zorn, Strafe. So bekennt er: "zu geringe aller Barmherzigkeit". Richt das geringste Gut habe ich erhalten, weil es mir zukam. So leitet ihn Gottes Güte zur Buke,

fo empfängt er in rechter Gefinnung die reichen Spenden seines barms herzigen Gottes.

Ja. bas ift es, mas uns beute aum Danten bewegen foll: die Gnade und Barmbergiakeit unfers Gottes. Bie ftolg und hochmütig find boch die Menschen! Sie gablen heute ftolg und hoffartig die Borzüge unfers Landes auf, als wären fie ihres eigenen Gludes Schmied, während es boch heißt: Sat. 1, 17. "Was hast bu, daß du nicht empfangen haft?" Gang anders find die Gläubigen gefinnt. Biffen nicht nur, "es ift bie tein Unterschied" ufw., sondern fagen auch: "Gott, fei mir Gunder gnädig!" Denten nicht baran, fich ihrer Frommigkeit zu rühmen. Sie wissen, Gott wirkt beide das Bollen und das Bollbringen. Das gilt auch vom Irdischen. "Und bas alles aus lauter väterlicher, göttlicher Gute und Barmherzigkeit" usw. Den Tod haben wir berdient; statt bessen gibt uns der Bater Leben und Gedeihen. erfüllt unsere Bergen mit Speise und Freude, und zwar ohne unser Berdienft und Burdigfeit. Muffen wir nicht gesenkten Sauptes fagen: "Ich bin nicht wert, daß du unter mein Dach geheft"; "ich bin zu geringe aller Barmberzigkeit"?

Bas follen und wollen wir tun angesichts folder Treue und Barmherzigkeit Gottes? "Des alles ich ihm zu danken, zu loben und dafür zu dienen und gehorsam zu sein schuldig bin." Freut euch über bie Gute und Treue unfers Gottes, ber feinen Bund halt und feine Berheifungen wahr macht. Freut euch bor allem aber auch über seine Gnade und Barmbergigfeit. Genießen wir nun fröhlichen Bergens bas Gute, das ber BErr uns bereitet hat: Wort, Saframent, irdifche Guter und Gaben. Aber erfennen wir bantbar an: Sie fommen bom Beren. "Du tuft beine milbe Sand auf" ufw. Zeigen wir nun auch unsere Dankbarkeit, indem wir die Gute und Treue unsers Gottes bor andern rühmen, indem wir bor allem auch einen gottfeligen Bandel führen zum Lobe Gottes, und indem wir von unserm reichen irbischen Segen andern mitteilen, die unferer Silfe bedürfen, und das Reich Gottes bauen helfen. Leere Raffen find tein Beweis mahrer Dantbarteit, fondern zeugen bon Undant, bon einer Gefinnung, die bas gerade Gegenteil ift von der Gefinnung bes Patriarchen Jatob. Wenn wir dann ankommen an der Grenze des himmlischen Kanaan und zurudbliden auf unsere Sunden und Schwachheiten, aber auch auf die Gnade und Silfe unfere Gottes und vorausbliden in die felige Ewigkeit, bann werden wir erft recht bemütigen Bergens Danktag feiern können und in alle Ewigkeit ruhmen und preifen tonnen: "Ich bin gu geringe" ufw. Lieb 344, 2. Baul Ronia

<sup>3</sup>m nächsten Jahrgang gebenten wir Entwürfe über bie von der Synodaltonferenz angenommene Epistelreihe zu liefern. Die Rebattion

# Theological Observer — Kirchlich-Zeitgeschichtliches

War. - "And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red; and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth and that they should kill one another; and there was given unto him a great sword." Rev. 6:3,4. At the beginning of September the frightful scourge of war with bewildering swiftness again fell upon a large part of the world's inhabitants. The political and other merely external aspects of the subject do not concern us here. Nor is it our intention to write an editorial elaborating on the great truths that ought to flash upon us from the Scriptures. Let us here simply remind ourselves that the war proclaims in thunderous accents our sinfulness and that of our fellow-men, that it is a punishment falling upon a wicked world ripe for the Judgment, that it constitutes a call to repentance for all who have ears to hear, that it announces the rapid approach of the final catastrophe, the end of the world. With hearts that are constantly beseeching God, on the one hand, to be merciful and soon to end the conflict and, on the other, to lead men to heed the moral and spiritual lessons taught by this dread affliction, and with feelings of love for all that are engaged in the conflict, regardless of where our sympathies lie, remembering that Jesus commands us to love our enemies and remembering, furthermore, that Christians must avoid fostering sinful animosities and must be peacemakers, let us be about our great task, preaching that real peace on earth which Jesus established through the shedding of His holy blood.

Declarations Pertaining to Intersynodical Relations.—From the report of the *Northwestern Lutheran* on the convention of the Wisconsin Synod, we reprint the following paragraph:

"A great amount of time, in fact three full sessions, were devoted to a most conscientious consideration and discussion of the request of our sister Synod, the honorable Ev. Luth. Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States, to render an opinion on the resolutions of this body at St. Louis in 1938, declaring 'that the Brief Statement of the Missouri Synod, together with the "Declaration of the Representatives of the American Lutheran Church" and the provisions of this entire report of Committee No.16 now being read and with Synod's actions thereupon, be regarded as the doctrinal basis for future church-fellowship between the Missouri Synod and the American Lutheran Church.' A communication addressed to the Missouri Synod was adopted by the convention. This communication had the following content: In two preliminary points the historical data of the entire development are set forth. In a third the principles which ought to govern such a resolution as that adopted at St. Louis are enunciated. And finally, in a fourth point, the application is made to the present case, disavowing a real doctrinal basis for church-fellowship as existing at St. Louis and desiring of our sister synod that the implications of the Sandusky Resolutions and the Pittsburgh Agreement be 'officially recognized and made known to those within and without our Synodical Conference' to the end that 'confidence will be restored to a point where negotiations can be resumed, first to remove these obstacles and then to establish true doctrinal unity.'"

The Gemeindeblatt of the Wisconsin Synod published this report:
"Beschlüsse der Wisconsin synod published this report:
"Beschlüsse der Wisconsin synod ein bezug auf die Bestrebungen der Wissonsin soe, Lehreinigkeit mit der A. L. C. herzustellen. Biel Zeit wurde bei der diesjährigen Tagung auf die Besprechung der Bereinbarung zwisschen der Wissonsin die Besprechung der Bereinbarung zwischen der Wissonsin die Und der Anderschlussen der Bereinigungsbewegung einzunehmen. Dies ist ohne Zweisel die wichtigte Angelegenheit, die unsere diesjährige Synodalversammlung zu besprechen und zu entscheiden hatte. Wir lassen die englisch berabsaten Beschlussen der chlischen Beschlussen werden.

"1. Wir billigen den Standpunkt unsers Romitees, ben es in feinem

Urteil und Befund nach Teil III feines Berichts ankundigt.

"Ein bestehendes Romitee in Sachen ber Bereinigungsbestrebungen unter den lutherischen Kirchenkörpern hat sei Juli 1938 im Auftrage des Brafes gearbeitet. Aus feinem Bericht nahm die Synode Teil III an, ber also lautet: Auf Grund seiner Beobachtungen, Beratungen und Besprechungen ift das Komitee der Ansicht, daß die Lehrgrundlage, die zwischen ber Miffourishnode und der Amerikanisch=Lutherischen Rirche bergestellt ift, nicht annehmbar, ift, besonders nicht im Sinblid auf den Borbehalt der Amerikanisch=Lutherischen Kirche, daß die "Rurze Darlegung' der Lehre der Missourisnode im Lichte der "Erklärung" der Amerikanisch=Lutherischen Rirche betrachtet werden muffe. Es follten nicht zwei Darftellungen als Basis der übereinstimmung herausgegeben werden. Bielmehr ift eine einzige gemeinsam abgegebene Erklärung unerläglich, die die ftrittigen Lehren thetisch und antithetisch (also in Darlegung der rechten Lehre und in Berwerfung der falschen Lehre) deckt. Weiter muß folde Lehrdarstellung in klaren und unzweideutigen Ausdruden gemacht werden, die nicht felbst wieder mühsamer Erklärung bedürfen. Die Aufrichtigkeit einer theoretisch richtigen Lehrdarlegung muß auch durch entsprechende Anwendung in der firchlichen Praxis bewiefen werben.

"2. Wir halten bafür:

"A. daß die Sandusky-Beschlüsse und die Pittsburgh-Bereinbarung erswiesen haben, daß keine wirkliche Lehrbasis zur Aufrichtung der Kirchensgemeinschaft zwischen der ehrwürdigen Synode von Wissouri und der Amesrikanisch-Lutherischen Kirche vorhanden war;

"B. daß weitere Berhandlungen zur Herstellung von Kirchengemeinschaft unter den gegenwärtigen Berhältnissen eine Berleugnung der Wahrheit in sich schließen und Berwirrung und Störungen in der Kirche berursachen würden und darum bis auf weiteres eingestellt werden sollten;

"C. daß, wenn auf diese Weise offiziell anerkannt und allen innerhalb und außerhalb unserer Synodalkonferenz bekannt gemacht worden ist, was die Sandusky-Beschlüsse und die Pittsburgh-Bereinbarung in sich schließen, wie unter A und B erwähnt, das Bertrauen bis zu dem Grade wiedershergestellt sein wird, daß Berhardlungen wieder aufgenommen werden können, um erst die bestehenden Hindernisse zu beseitigen und dann eine wahre Einigkeit in der Lehre herzustellen.

"3. Wir empfehlen:

"A. daß unsere Wisconsinsynode ein Schreiben an die ehrwürdige Miss sourispnode richte, in dem sie ihr von unserer Stellung Mitteilung macht;

"B. daß der Präses der Synode ein Komitee, zu dem er selber gehören soll, ernenne, dessen Pstlicht es sein soll, alle nur zu erlangende Information über die gegenwärtigen Bereinigungsbestrebungen innerhalb der lutherischen Kirche sorgfältig zu sammeln und über die Entwicklungen dieser Bewegunsgen an die Allgemeine Synode oder die verschiedenen Distrikte, wenn so gewünscht, zu berichten."

The Lutheran Sentinel, the paper of our Norwegian brethren, reports this item in its account of the convention of the Norwegian Synod:

"This resolution was adopted unanimously: 'Resolved that the Synod hereby endorses the letter to Dr. J. W. Behnken, drawn up by the committee appointed by the president to study the union movement between the American Lutheran Church and the Missouri Synod.' In the discussion it was pointed out that the so-called agreement that has been reached is not sufficiently clear and definite to exclude error. That there are wide open doors to contrary teachings was clearly demonstrated. The convention discussions on this point were marked by an outspoken 'on the record' attitude; and equally clear was the concern for the truth which must mark the brotherhood of those who are united in a common confession. The whole convention, on the floor and in the halls, was noted for a definite tone of deep concern for the maintenance of our common faith with those of the Synodical Conference who have stood side by side with us in the past for Scriptural doctrine, faith, and life."

In the Australian Theological Review, Prof. H. Haman published the following article:

"The Lutheran Union Movement. Naturally enough, Lutheran church-papers in Australia and in America devote more than a little space to the progress of the negotiations between the American Lutheran Church and the Missouri Synod, which negotiations have now been extended to the bodies with which these churches are affiliated and in communion. Besides, writing and printing on this topic are by no means restricted to the regular synodical organs. Whether any real progress has been made during the past year, as far as the rank and file of the ministers (and of the laymen) within the respective bodies are concerned, we are unable to say. In Australia nothing has been done, with the exception of a preliminary exchange of official letters; but there seems to be an earnest and urgent desire on both sides to get the discussions under way at last. In America conferences have been held by pastors belonging to the various synods joined in the Synodical Conference, and also by pastors of the two bodies which are now striving to bring about church-fellowship; the results are described as satisfactory. But unexpected obstacles have loomed up, and unexpected opposition has been encountered. Still, were they unexpected? Men do not think and feel alike. Quot homines, tot sententiae. Even Christians linked by the bonds of a common faith may argue and debate the question: If a breach in the Church, a breach of many years' standing, is to be healed, what is the irreducible minimum that must be insisted on in the way of retraction, confession, guarantees? That there are divergent views on this point is not strange at all; the opposite would be astounding indeed. But discussion may help to clarify opinions, to harmonize differing views. One hesitates, at this distance, to add one's voice to the many already raised. Yet a few observations may not come amiss.

"Since the momentous action taken by the Missouri Synod at St. Louis (1938) things have not run altogether smoothly. It is not our intention to deal with statements emanating from the other side; though we may say in passing that the refusal to 'sign on the dotted line,' now almost historic, of which so much has been made, originally occurred in a letter (private?) to a pastor of the Missouri Synod who had asked for certain information. Of course, private or not, that letter is by this time public property, and we believe that its contents have been dealt with adequately by Dr. W. Arndt in the Concordia Theological Monthly, May, 1939 (p. 387 ff.). We are now concerned with such criticism of the action taken by the Missouri Synod, and of its Committee on Lutheran Union, as has been published in our own circles, both officially and non-officially. Fears are expressed whether church-fellowship, if brought into being, would be based on true doctrinal unity; whether the doctrinal basis accepted by the two bodies is a sufficient and adequate one; whether the American Lutheran Church has really, by its Declaration, accepted the Brief Statement of the Missouri Synod; whether the Declaration is sufficient guarantee that certain errors formerly taught by the synods now united in the American Lutheran Church have actually been retracted; whether the efforts now being made to bring about a rapprochement between the A.L.C. and the United Lutheran Church would not inevitably involve the Missouri Synod in fellowship with the last-named body; etc.

"We do not doubt that these and other apprehensions proceed from hearts that love and desire the truth. We should not dream of denying to conscientious doubters and objectors the right to express their opinion. In a matter of such vast importance, where, as one writer correctly points out, the congregations with their pastors must in the last instance decide, free discussion and criticism is a desideratum, a necessity. It is quite in order when dangers, obstacles, stumblingblocks, oversights, are pointed out, or what seem to be such; people have a right to urge caution. Still, Sit modus in rebus. We for our person do not share the opinion of those who regard the doctrinal basis accepted by the Missouri Synod as insufficient. We do not share the fears of those who say that "The American Lutheran Church wishes the Brief Statement to be viewed in the light of the Declaration,' according to a resolution adopted at its convention at Sandusky, O.; therefore, in the last analysis, the Declaration will be everything and the Brief Statement nothing. The fifth resolution

adopted at Sandusky begins with the words: "That we believe that the Brief Statement viewed in the light of our Declaration is not in contradiction to the Minneapolis Theses, which are the basis of our membership in the American Lutheran Conference.' But that, if we understand English, is not the same as saying that 'the American Lutheran Church wishes the Brief Statement to be viewed in the light of the Declaration,' with the implication that the Declaration is norma normans and the Brief Statement is relegated to the position of norma normata. Again, since there are now two doctrinal statements adopted by the negotiating bodies, the fear is voiced that in case of differences each body will appeal to its own and reject the other; and hence the demand is raised that there should be but one doctrinal statement equally subscribed to by both parties. We cannot regard this demand as unreasonable, but neither do we regard it as necessary. However, since we have here not two political parties trying to agree on an innocuous formula and haggling over words and phrases to enable each to save its face, but two church-bodies which, in the fear of God and in the love of His Church and with regard to the welfare of souls, are trying to reach unity of faith and to confess a common faith, we can well imagine such a thing as these two bodies complying with the request or demand just mentioned, if it be urged by many, in the spirit of love and brotherliness. Or again, what is asked for is a confession, in thetical and antithetical form, covering all controversial points that have made a rift between the church-bodies in the past. Even though one granted the desirability of having such a confession, one would still have to face the question: Where shall we begin and where shall we end? Is it really necessary, and is it charitable, needlessly to exacerbate the feelings of the present generation by demanding that it disavow errors from which it feels and knows itself free, because its fathers or grandfathers once maintained these errors? Certainly a confessing Church is bound to reject error as well as to uphold the truth of God's revelation; but just as certainly Christian charity and practical Christian wisdom will have to play their part in determining the procedure to be adopted, or the language to be used, when two churches record the fact that, after long and carefully examining and discussing teachings that divided them, they have at last attained to unity on the basis of the Word of God. Matters are not helped when people, dissatisfied with the way in which things were done, propound a carefully excogitated scheme and attempt to communicate to others their own conviction that this scheme is the only one which has the sanction of the divine Word.

"Two matters in particular we must strongly deprecate and deplore. In their well-meaning but misdirected zeal, certain writers have expressed distrust of the Committee on Lutheran Union and distrust of the bona fides of those with whom fellowship is sought, even while strenuously and no doubt quite sincerely disclaiming any such intention. The Committee on Lutheran Union has been at work for years; the result of its labors were placed before the St. Louis convention in a number of resolutions by Committee No. 16; and as far as we can gather, the Missouri Synod has through that convention pronounced upon these recommendations in no uncertain voice. Pastors of both

bodies are encouraged, by resolution, to meet in smaller circles to discuss the doctrinal basis and questions of church practise; the Committee on Lutheran Union is to continue its work. The Missouri Synod went on record that agreement in practise is needed for true unity, referring specifically to 'the antichristian lodge and anti-Scriptural pulpit- and altar-fellowship and all other forms of unionism'; besides, it resolved that 'the establishing of church-fellowship between the American Lutheran Church and the Missouri Synod will depend also on the establishing on the part of the American Lutheran Church of doctrinal agreement with those church-bodies with which the American Lutheran Church is in fellowship.' In other words, the Missouri Synod recognized that un-Lutheran practise and synodical affiliations might prove to be the rocks on which the consummation of church-fellowship may come to grief. All this was published long ago; everybody in the Missouri Synod is, or can be, aware of it. Just why, then, should any one doubt that the Committee on Lutheran Union, the officials of the Missouri Synod, or the editors of its church-papers will in the future display the same circumspection and conscientiousness and the same devotion to confessional principles which they have displayed in the past? It seems to me that these men are as well aware of all the relevant facts and factors as their critics. If there should be on the part of the American Lutheran Church and the synods affiliated with it an unwillingness to renounce un-Lutheran practise and to forsake unionistic associations, or even an inclination to enter into union with others whose doctrinal and practical unsoundness has long been a grief to sound confessional Lutheranism, then the whole matter will be off, to put it bluntly. Of this we have no doubt. Or should the partners of the Missouri Synod in the Synodical Conference decline, for reasons of conscience, to give their approval to the doctrinal basis and the establishing of church-fellowship with the American Lutheran Church, the Missouri Synod will with Christian charity and patience hold the matter in abeyance until apprehensions are removed and legitimate wishes met. Of this, too, we have no doubt. As regards the American Lutheran Church, Christian love and common decency demand that its Declaration be taken at its face value and that no doubt should be expressed or entertained regarding the sincerity of the men who dealt with the committee of the Missouri Synod. It is not ethical to suspect trickery and subterfuge; nor can such suspicions be justified by quoting incidents from sixteenth-century church history. It is true, the American Lutheran Church declared at Sandusky: 'We are not willing to give up membership in the American Lutheran Conference.' But that body also resolved: 'We are ready to submit the aforementioned doctrinal agreement to the other members of the American Lutheran Conference for their official approval and acceptance.' So matters stand. We can only wait and see and meanwhile hope and pray. The door is still open; let no one rush forward to close it prematurely.

"The other matter which we must not simply deplore, but censure in the spirit of meekness, is the intemperate language resorted to by some of the friends from our own side. Nothing is quite so contagious or infectious as the feeling of panic. Those writers who pour out in printer's ink their doubts and fears, their anxieties and apprehensions; who in their mind's eye already see the Missouri Synod fallen from its high estate of strict confessionalism and entangled in unsanctified alliances with unionists and errorists - these are not rendering their Church or other churches a service, to say the least. Is it right to unsettle and unhinge the minds of readers by filling them with a vague dread of dangers which are certainly always present among sinful men in a sinful world, but to which the officials and committees of the Missouri Synod mainly charged with conducting the negotiations are extremely unlikely to succumb? Sorrowfully, not cynically, we record our conviction that about one half of what we have read on the movement ought never to have been written. One writer explains why our committee was 'so easily deceived'; another opines that, unless the American Lutheran Church now takes the action expected of it, 'our colloquents and the St. Louis faculty have suffered themselves to be deceived.' In an editorial comment we read: 'Meanwhile some Lutheran leaders are driving with the throttle wide open, full speed ahead, toward a union overriding all obstacles. . . . Just what the driving motive is behind all this speed for union [Sic! After negotiations and discussions extending over decades. - H. H.] this present writer has not been able to ascertain.' Later the same article speaks of a mad scramble for unionism and asks whether Missouri will soon find itself in a combined Church 'embracing all Christendom, Protestants, and Catholics, not forgetting the Jews.' The notion may be ridiculous, he admits; 'but with the craze for unionism all things are possible.' Evidently some of us are slipping into the language of propaganda with its 'weasel words,' and some are becoming slightly hysterical. At times the situation is not without its touch of humor. Thus one of our friends reiterates that, before Missouri can enter into fellowship with any church-body, there must be some guarantee that there will be in that body doctrinal discipline, doctrinal control, Lehrzucht. Most truly spoken, and we very heartily agree; but why should the gentleman assume that those whom he admonishes are not sufficiently alive to this

"What amuses the present writer is this, that exactly the same point was stressed by a representative of the American Lutheran Church when discussing a statement made by members of the U.L.C. on the inerrancy of the Scriptures. He said, according to the Concordia Theological Monthly, June, 1939, p. 458: 'Ohne Lehrdisziplin kann keine Kirche auf die Dauer gesund bleiben.' This saying is attributed by the C.T.M. to M.R, which we suppose to stand for Dr.M.Reu.

"And why all this? Not only because it interests us and concerns us as Lutherans in fellowship with the Missouri Synod, but also because it may teach us something for the time when discussions begin here in Australia, which, we hope will be soon. That the Missouri Synod is yielding never a whit to unionism and indifferentism must be plant as daylight to all who read the Lutheran Witness and the Concordal Theological Monthly with care. Every new development is promptly published, moreover, and may be read by all and sundry. We have seen no trace of a desire to hide or hush up any matter. So let us, while

adhering strictly to the Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions, strive to keep sober sense and judgment, to remain scrupulously fair, and to speak the truth in love. The movement spoken of is still fraught with promise, as far as we know now. It is worth praying and working for. We have no patience with those who hint that it proceeded from mere megalomania and the desire to impress the world with large numbers. The issue cuts much deeper than that. There is, first of all, God's will and command, Eph. 4:3. There is the need of the world in an age of apostasy. There is the scandal and offense of a divided Christendom and a divided Lutheranism. Australian Lutherans feel uncomfortable when they see, in many a tiny settlement, a church of the U.E.L.C.A. on one side of the road, and a church of the E.L.S.A. on the other; they know what heartburnings, what misery and wretchedness, are caused in many a family by this state of affairs. There is the foreign missionfield. We wish that we could send all those armchair critics who speak slightingly of the present movement into the foreign field for a term, so that they might see with their own eyes the shock of pained surprise in converts who learn that there are many Christian churches and that there are various Lutheran bodies not in communion with each other. Do we, then, advocate unionistic fellowship? Not for one moment, All these things, unbearable though they sometimes seem, must be borne for the truth's sake and for conscience' sake. We can do nothing against the truth and nothing against conscience. But we can work for a Godpleasing Lutheran union, in particular when the opportunity arises. It is good to say, The consummation will come in God's own time, when thereby we mean that only His Spirit and His blessing can bring it about. It is not good to speak thus, however, when this pious sentiment is made the excuse for doing nothing. Ora et labora! We pray for daily bread, and that implies that we work for our daily bread. Our prayer for peace puts on us the obligation to work for peace. Prayer for Lutheran unity can hardly be earnest and sincere if we are not willing to make efforts to attain it. Our prayer is: May God in His mercy and truth so direct the hearts of men that in the unity of the true faith and in sincere confession of His holy Word they may reach that Lutheran fellowship toward which they are striving."

Concerning Church-Fellowship Discussions in Australia. — With respect to discussions on the establishment of church-fellowship between them and the United Ev. Luth. Church of Australia our brethren in Australia published the following paragraphs in the Australian Lutheran:

The Lutheran Herald (U.E.L.C.A.) of March 27, 1939, contains "A Paper for the District Synods of the U.E.L.C.A.," "An Open Letter to the E.L.S.A.," written by the President of the U.E.L.C.A., and inviting reply.

We reply: The "Open Letter" puts the clock back to zero, inasmuch as it is guilty of, proclaims, and defends, a basic error, an unscriptural twofold principle of Scripture interpretation, which is the root evil of all doctrinal dissension and which, consequently, leads to further doctrinal error.

1. Christ, the apostles, and prophets attest that Holy Scripture, or the written Word of God, is the only source and standard of doctrine and

rule of faith and life, or the true and only principium cognoscendi (Schriftprinzip), principle of knowledge.

Jesus: "It is written," Matt. 4:4; "The Scripture cannot be broken," John 10:35.

The Reformation fathers recognized only one principle of knowledge and interpretation, and would have Scripture alone posit, decree, or determine doctrine as to fact and quality.

Luther: "The Church has no authority to establish (create or decree) an article of faith: this she has never done and never will."

Quenstedt: "Divine revelation is the first and last source of sacred theology, beyond which theological discussion among—Christians dare not proceed."

Confessions; "The rule is: The Word of God shall establish articles of faith, and no one else, not even an angel." (Trigl., p. 467, § 15.)

"We believe, teach, and confess that the sole rule and standard according to which all dogmas together with (all) teachers should be estimated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and of the New Testament alone." (Trigl., p. 777, § 1; cp. p. 851, § 1.)

3. We deny that the Reformation principle "consists of the two principles: the Scripture alone, faith alone, not one without the other, but both together, not one more stressed than the other, but both stressed alike as of equal value," that is, Scripture and faith coordinated and regarded as having equal value and power in the positing, testing, and interpretation of doctrine as to fact and quality.

4. We deny that "the only right way of explaining the Scripture is that which applies both principles of the Reformation, the Scripture alone, faith alone, equally and both as of equal importance."

Neither the Scriptures nor the Reformation fathers coordinate faith with the Scriptures, nor do they permit faith to be the cojudge of the fact and quality of doctrine.

5. We hold that the doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, is the central doctrine of saving truth and the touchstone and standard according to which man's subjective, personal faith is to be tested and judged and his interpretation or understanding of any doctrine is to be examined to ascertain whether or not both agree with the Gospel of grace.

6. The subjective, personal faith of a man, whether theologian or not, cannot be the source, standard, and cojudge of doctrine, inasmuch as Scripture alone in its doctrine of justification is the source and object of saving faith.

7. The Reformation principle grace only signifies that God's favor is bestowed freely on the sinner for Christ's sake.

The Reformation principle faith only signifies the means whereby the grace, or favor, of God becomes the sinner's own, to the total exclusion of man's efforts and works.

St. Paul: "For by grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast," Eph. 2:8,9.

9. Scripture alone is the source of faith. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God," Rom. 10:17.

10. Scripture is the object of faith; it precedes, reveals, determines,

demands; faith follows, receives, and assents without question to, every doctrine posited by Scripture; it apprehends God's Word and promise, God's mercy and forgiveness of sins, and Christ as the Redeemer and Mediator; it is effected, or wrought, guided and ruled, by the Word; it is a witness and gives testimony to the doctrines posited by Scripture.

11. The introduction of faith as a cojudge of doctrine is to elevate the "blissful experience of the living Christ," "pious self-consciousness," "Christian experience," "enlightened reason," and the "unanimous consent" of theologians or the Church to a position of authority over the Scriptures.

12. The introduction of faith as a coordinate principle with Scripture in determining the fact and quality of doctrine is to coordinate the effect

with the cause. This is both unscriptural and illogical.

13. The interpretation of Scripture operating with Scripture as "one organic whole," general scope of Scripture, entirety of Scripture, "das Schriftganze," allied with the subjective faith of the theologian as a cojudge of doctrine, sets aside the sedes doctrinae, the clear Scripture-passages which treat of the particular doctrines, and destroys all certainty of doctrine.

Kliefoth (German theologian) terms the phrase "organic whole of Scripture," "das Schriftganze," "eine unvollziehbare Phrase," an unwork-

able and useless proposition.

14. The doctrines of Scripture are derived from the proof-passages (sedes doctrinae), that is, from the clear and unmistakable passages in which the particular doctrines are set forth, and not from the "entirety of Scripture" or the "general scope of Scripture" or the "organic whole of Scripture" (vom "Schriftganzen").

The reading of a book to have its "organic whole" make a general impression on the mind is of little or no value, inasmuch as the result must be confusion; but concentration on the particular statements and

doctrines brings clarity.

15. Doctrinal differences cannot be removed and unity attained by permitting the "one organic whole" of Scripture, together with subjective faith, to have its general effect, or make a general impression, on the mind and imagination of the theologian, but by determining the controversial point (status controversiae) and then placing it in the light of all clear Scripture-passages that treat of the particular doctrine or point in question.

16. The distinction between fundamental and non-fundamental doctrines has not the purpose of showing what doctrines may be dispensed from faith, inasmuch as all truths of Scripture are facts of doctrine and

articles of faith, even if not of saving faith.

 Fundamental doctrines are all those doctrines that a man must know and believe in order to be saved.

18. Non-fundamental doctrines are all those doctrines of which a man may be ignorant and yet have saving faith.

19. Non-fundamental doctrines, truths of Scripture, are neither open questions nor problems, inasmuch as Scripture does not leave them open to question nor declare them to be problems which are to be solved by the keen and inquiring mind of the theologian.

20. Unity cannot be attained by evading or forsaking the sedes doctrinae, the clear and unmistakable passages of Scripture which set forth the particular doctrines; by coordinating Scripture and faith in the positing of doctrine as to fact and quality; by viewing the Scripture, and operating with it, as "one organic whole"; by avoiding the discussion of the individual doctrines in dispute as of "minor importance," open questions, problems, and agreeing to disagree.

21. Unity cannot be brought about easily or be said to exist because all are Lutherans holding to Scripture and Confessions, sing the same hymns, use the same Catechism, take the same ordination vow, are Australian Lutherans, and have in common a truly Australian sentiment and outlook, inasmuch as Scripture doctrine is intended for all nations, and Scripture is not concerned with the ancestry, sentiment, outlook, and nationality of any man.

22. Unity can be attained only when pastors and congregations face the fact that serious doctrinal differences do still exist, and are willing and ready to discuss the basic principle of the interpretation of Scripture and the differences in the individual doctrines that separate them, to the exclusion of all unionism, before unity is attained.

23. We agree that the difference is not only "vital," but hold also that it is divisive of church-fellowship; and therefore we ask for the early resumption of doctrinal discussions on the individual points of difference, both of the "main," or "fundamental," and the "minor," or "non-fundamental," doctrines, that unity may be established.

24. We hold that friendly doctrinal discussions are possible; and we are not minded to enter into or countenance mutual recriminations in regard to past history, inasmuch as we are convinced that they will hold up, and may easily result in preventing, doctrinal discussions altogether. Complaints regarding past history may receive attention, if necessary, at a later stage or when unity in doctrine has been established.

25. It will be necessary, should the intersynodical committees agree in doctrine, that all pastors, conferences, committees, parishes, and congregations of both bodies signify agreement, act accordingly, and deal with those who obdurately oppose themselves to the truth.

26. Confessions: "From this our explanation, friends and enemies, and therefore every one, may clearly infer that we have no intention of yielding aught of the eternal immutable truth of God for the sake of temporal peace, tranquillity, and unity (which, moreover, is not in our power to do). Nor would such peace and unity, since it is devised against the truth and for its suppression, have any permanency. Still less are we inclined to adorn and conceal a corruption of the pure doctrine and manifest, condemned errors.

"But we entertain heartfelt pleasure and love for, and are on our part sincerely inclined and anxious to advance, that unity to our utmost power, by which His glory remains to God uninjured, nothing of the divine truth of the Gospel is surrendered, no room is given to the least error, poor sinners are brought to true, genuine repentance, raised up by faith, confirmed in new obedience, and thus justified and eternally saved alone through the sole merit of Christ." (Trigl., p. 1095, § 95.)

U. L. C. A. Leaders and the Pittsburgh Agreement. - In the July, 1939, issue of the Lutheran Church Quarterly (U.L.C.A.) the widely held view that through the Pittsburgh Agreement the commission of the U.L.C.A. for closer relations with other Lutheran bodies accepted the position of the A.L.C. and of the Missouri Synod toward the Holy Scriptures, is shattered. This number of the Lutheran Church Quarterly makes it evident that in certain influential sections of the U.L.C.A. there is no intention to accept the doctrine of the verbal inspiration and the inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures. Dr. H. Offermann, a member of the U. L. C. A. commission, in explaining why this commission drafted a declaration on the Word of God and the Scriptures to be presented to the Baltimore convention, states that the U.L.C.A. commission found the Missouri Synod position as outlined in the Brief Statement unacceptable. and he does not say that now, since the Pittsburgh Agreement has been adopted, the commission has changed its view. In addition, Prof. F. Nolde, of Mount Airy seminary, a colleague of Dr. Offermann, joining him in a symposium on the Baltimore Declaration, boldly sponsors destructive views of higher criticism. Speaking of the significance of the Baltimore Declaration for the educational program of the Church, he seeks to show, taking Gen. 1 as an object-lesson, how the narratives of the Holy Scriptures may be taught if one is guided by the Baltimore Declaration. Unblushingly he says: "Pupils may later discard the scientific import of the story." Concerning the child's reaction he says that it should be "not so much to specific and detailed facts but to the following values: a) God is the Creator, and the story in Genesis tells how people explained the way in which God had created the world." Besides he sponsors the oft-exploded view that in Gen. 1 and 2 we have two creation accounts. No wonder that Dr. Reu, drawing attention to some of these things in the Kirchliche Zeitschrift for September, declares: "Wie kann man hoffen, dass unsere Pittsburgh-Erklaerung in unserem Sinn von den Vereinigten Lutherischen Kirchen angenommen wird, wenn Lehrer dieser Kirche schon die Baltimore-Deklaration behandeln, wie es hier geschieht?"

D. Ren über Unionismus. In der "Kirchlichen Zeitschrift" vom Juni dieses Jahres hat Herr D. M. Reu einen längeren Aufsah über Unionismus veröffentlicht, der treffliche Ausführungen über dieses wichtige Thema enthält. Der Aufsah war ursprünglich als Bortrag für die interspnodale freie Konferenz, die am 8. Wai in Cedar Rapids tagte, geschrieben und wurde dort an jenem Datum verlesen. Der Vortrag wurde wiederholt auf der freien Konferenz zu Kochelle, Ju., am 28. August, und auf der zweiten freien Konferenz zu Tedar Rapids, die am 18. September stattsand, wurde er des längeren besprochen. Wir unterbreiten hier besonders wichtige Abschnitte, mit einigen Bemerkungen unserveseits.

"Welanchthon hat, wenn nicht alles täuscht, für seine Person die Gegenswart des Leibes und Blutes Christi im Abendmahl dis an sein Lebensende sestgehalten, trohdem daß er bereit war, mit Calvin in einer Kirche zussammenzugehen. Das ist beim Unionismus häusig der Fall. Und gerade dies, daß man beim Eingehen einer Union doch seine eigene überzeugung nicht aufzugeben braucht, sondern bloß neben dieser einer andern Raum ges

währen muß, wird gerne als Mittel gebraucht, um sowohl sein eigenes wie bas Gewiffen anderer zu ftillen. Man erkennt dabei ein Doppeltes nicht: 1. daß man damit, daß man der entgegenstehenden Meinung ausbrudlich Raum gibt und ihr Berechtigung jugefteht, entweber ber Schrift die Rlarbeit und Gindeutigkeit abspricht oder dem Irrtum neben der Bahrheit Existenzrecht zugesteht oder gegen das, was eigentlich biblische Wahrheit ift, wenigstens insofern gleichgültig ift, daß man auf ihrer absoluten Gültigkeit nicht mehr befteht; 2. erkennt man nicht, daß man mit dem Zugeständnis bes Rechtes von aweierlei Meinung in einem Lehrstud eine ichiefe Cbene betreten hat, die notwendig immer tiefer gieht und zu doktrineller Gleichs gultigfeit überhaupt führt, wie wir an der Breukischen Union das traurigste Beispiel haben. Dottrineller Indifferentismus ift beides, die Burgel bes Unionismus wie sein Resultat. Wer die Absolutheit des Autoritätsanspruchs ber Schrift und die Eindeutigkeit ihrer Aussagen in bezug auf alle Fundamentallehren theoretisch wie praktisch anerkennt, muß allem Unionismus gram fein."

"Gibt es eine britte Form bes Unionismus? Allerdings. Bahrend es sich bei den beiden ersten Normen um Andifferengierung der Lehrunterschiede zwischen ber lutherischen und ber reformierten Rirche handelt, kann eine ähnliche Indifferenzierung der biblischen Lehre in der lutherischen Kirche felber eintreten, die es benen, die es treu mit bem Bekenntnis meinen, nicht erlaubt, mit gewissen Teilen ber lutherischen Rirche in Rirchengemeinschaft au treten oder au bleiben. 3war bekennen fich alle Teile ber lutherischen Rirche der Welt offiziell entweder zur ganzen Konkordia von 1580 ober boch zur Augsburgischen Konfession und zu Luthers Rleinem Ratechismus, verpflichten auch so oder so ihre Pastoren und Professoren darauf. Aber jedermann weiß, daß man die Berpflichtung auf die Symbolischen Bucher auch in ben Zeiten bes Rationalismus weithin aufrechterhalten hat - ift doch selbst Semler, der Bater der modernen Bibelfritik wie des Liberalismus in der Theologie überhaupt, für ihre offizielle Anertennung eingetreten und dabei doch nichts anderes mehr zu bieten gewußt hat als die Theologie und Religion bes natürlichen Menschen. Darum ift das Brief Statement der Miffourishnobe gang im Recht, wenn es fagt:

"The orthodox character of a Church is established not by its mere name nor by its outward acceptance of, and subscription to, an orthodox creed but by the doctrine which is actually taught in its pulpits, in its theological seminaries, and in its publications. On the other hand, a Church does not forfeit its orthodox character through the casual intrusion of errors, provided these are combated and eventually removed by means of doctrinal discipline.'

"Das ist es, was uns trennt nicht nur von der neuen Deutsch-Svange-lischen Reichskirche, die ja nach ihrer Konstitution so ausgesprochen uniert wie nur möglich ist und in der weiteren Entwickung den Namen "Kirche" überhaupt nicht mehr verdient; das trennte uns auch schon von 1933 von den damals bestehenden "lutherischen Landeskirchen". Denn selbst in ihnen hatte der Grundsah der Eleichberechtigung der Richtungen mehr oder weniger den Bekenntnisdoden unterhöhlt, und Lehrzucht wurde nur krassen Aussenüchsen des Liberalismus gegenüber geübt. Das trennt uns auch hierzulande von der Bereinigten Lutherischen Kirche. Wan mag gerne zugestehen,

870

daß die Konstitution dieses Kirchenkörpers lutherisch ift; man mag anerkennen, daß es eine mannhafte Tat war, die Bashington-Erklärung bon 1920 burchzuseben mit ihrer Anerkennung ber Galesburg-Regel; man mag gerne annehmen, daß die in den Berhandlungen mit der Amerikanisch= Lutherischen Kirche, einschließlich bes Sabes von der Frrtumslofigfeit der Schrift, aufgestellten Sabe ehrlich und aufrichtig gemeint und nicht bas Refultat politischer Klugheit find; man mag fich von Herzen darüber freuen, daß nicht nur viele Laien, sondern auch gar manche Baftoren ihr Leben und Amt diesen Grundfaben gemäß führen und tapfer gegen das unluthe= rische Wesen in ihrer eigenen Kirche unter manchmal sehr erschwerenden Umständen fämpfen. Es lägt fich boch die Tatsache nicht wegleugnen, daß offizielle Publikationen dem Modernismus starke Zugeständnisse gemacht haben, die den Grund einreißen; daß an manchen Seminarien Brofesoren lehren, die in vielen Punkten mit dem Bekenntnis der Kirche gebrochen haben; daß an manchen theologischen Anstalten eine Einführung in die Betenntnisschriften der Kirche überhaupt unterbleibt; daß Kangel= und Altar= gemeinschaft mit ben Reformierten weithin ungeftraft geübt wird und daß immer noch hunderte von den Paftoren zu den Logen, besonders den Freimaurern, gehören und fogar folde Gemeinden bon obenher unbeläftigt blei= ben, welche pringipiell nur Freimaurer berufen. Bir find nicht blind, fonbern erkennen mit dankbarer Freude an, daß die Oberleitung der Kirche bie wenigen ihr berfaffungsmäßig zustehenden Mittel, diesen Auftanden ein Ende zu machen, nicht unbenütt läßt, und erbitten für sie ein Feststehen und Bachsen darin; aber gur Zeit bestehen diese Zustände nicht nur noch weithin, sondern es wird auch von ben Synoden, die unmittelbar bamit handeln sollten, vielfach gar nichts getan, und es fehlt felbst nicht an nicht geringen Areisen, die sich für den Fortbestand des traurigen status quo einseben und ibre eigene Andifferenz als rechte evangelische Freiheit preisen. Unter diesen Umständen Kirchengemeinschaft mit der Bereinigten Lutherischen Kirche aufrichten wäre Unionismus, weil es nicht ohne Indifferentierung der Bahrbeit geschehen könnte, und diese Andiffentierung ist eins der markantesten Rennzeichen des Unionismus.

"Doch manche von Ihnen warten schon lange barauf, daß ich endlich noch eine vierte Form des Unionismus nenne; denn fie meinen, Unionis= mus sei schon da vorhanden, da man mit einem kirchlich zusammengeht oder gar nur mit ihm betet, ohne doch in allen Lehrpunkten mit ihm übereinzustimmen. Die einen meinen, man mußte boch nicht bloß in ber Lehre bon ber Gunde und Enade, bon Chrifti Perfon und Wert, bon Glaube und Rechtfertigung, von Bekehrung und Prädestination und ahnlichen Zentral= punften übereinstimmen, sondern auch in der Lehre vom Antichrift, von der Judenbefehrung, bon ber Auferstehung der Marthrer, in bem Berftandnis bon Apot. 20 ufw., und die andern fügen hingu: im Berftandnis der Schöpfungstage, in der Frage von der Schwagerehe, von der Verlobung, in ber Frage nach der Wirtung ber Johannistaufe, in der Abweifung der Beziehung von Joh. 6, 51 ff. auf das heilige Abendmahl, in der Frage nach der Berechtigung des Zinsnehmens usw. Nur bei völliger übereinstimmung in allen biefen Buntten tonne man miteinander Rirchengemeinschaft aufrichten, und nur bei folch völliger übereinstimmung könne man auch miteinander beten; denn Gebetsgemeinschaft und Kirchengemeinschaft wären identifc.

"Nun gestehe ich von vornherein zu, daß man allerdings von den genannten eschatalogischen Punkten in einer Weise reden und lehren kann, wie sie in der Kirche nicht geduldet werden darf. Ich gestehe serner gerne zu, daß man ein Zusammengehen troß starker Differenzen in diesen Punkten in einer solchen Weise anstreden kann, die abgewiesen werden muß und meinetwegen als Unionismus bezeichnet werden kann. Dann nämlich, wenn es einem gleichgültig ift, was die Schrift eigenklich in bezug auf diese Dinge lehrt; denn Gleichgültigkeit gegen die Schrift ist immer sündhaft, selbst dann, wenn es sich um ganz untergeordnete Punkte handelt. Ich gestehe endlich zu, daß Gebetsgemeinschaft und Kirchengemeinschaft identisch sind, wenn es sich um das Gebet im öffenklichen Gottesdienst handelt, und selbst private Gebetsgemeinschaft kann dann unionistisch wirken, wenn der, mit dem ich bete, meine Gebetsgemeinschaft mit ihm als Zeichen völliger überseinstmung in der Lehre nimmt und ich ihn in dieser verkehrten Weisnung lasse.

"Bo aber dieses Dreisache nicht statthat, lasse ich mir von keinem etwaiges kirchliches Zusammengehen troh Mangels der übereinstimmung in allen Punkten als Unionismus brandmarken. Das ist in der alten Zeit in der lutherischen Kirche nur einmal versucht worden, und selbst da nicht in bezug auf alle der obengenannten Punkte. Abraham Calov hat es dersucht, als er 1655 seinen Consensus Fidei Repetitus Verae Lutheranae schrieb und 1664 verössenktliche. Da hat er selbst den von der tirchlichen Gemeinsschaft ausschlieben wollen, der da nicht zugeben wollte, das die altestamentslichen Frommen dieselbe explizite Erkenntnis der göttlichen Dreieinigkeit besessen, wie sie später im Symbolum Athanasianum gelehrt wurde. Aber es ist Calov nicht gelungen, und sein Consensus ward balb vergessen.

"Die Weinung, daß die, welche in Kirchengemeinschaft miteinander leben wollen, in allen Lehrpunkten übereinstimmen müßten, ruht auf einem verkehrten Berständnis von 1 Kor. 1, 10 und andern Schriftaussagen. Sorgsfältige Berücksichtigung des jeweiligen Zusammenhangs führt zu anderm Resultat.

"Jest bleibt bloß noch die Frage übrig, ob gelegentliches privates Beten mit Lutheranern, mit benen man nicht in Kirchengemeinschaft fteht, ober mit Undersgläubigen Unionismus ift. Benn Gebetsgemeinschaft fo eng wie Ricchengemeinschaft ift, dann ift das natürlich der Fall. Aber find beide wirklich identisch? Das anzunehmen ift für mich unmöglich, es werde benn beffer aus ber Schrift bewiesen als bisher. Das Gebet bes Chriften hat feine andere Boraussetzung als ben Glauben, daß ich um Chrifti willen gu Gott als zu meinem Bater tommen barf, getroft und mit aller Zuversicht. Wo jemand diesen Glauben als seinen Glauben hat und bekennt, ba ift bas gemeinsame Band da, welches es mir erlaubt, mit ihm vor den gleichen Bater zu treten. Er ift damit ein Glied der Una Sancta geworden, die Gott der Herr unter allen erscheinenden Rirchen auf Erden hat, und zu der ge= höre ich auch. Warum follte ich bann nicht mit ihm zusammen beten bürfen? Gewiß, nicht im öffentlichen Gottesbienft - benn ba ware es Indifferentismus gegen bas Bekenntnis ber Gemeinde und möchte andere gu gleichem Indifferentismus berleiten ober ein Stein bes Unftoges werden -, aber in pribatem Zusammensein unter besonderen Gelegenheiten. 1 Tim. 2, 5. 6; Eph. 2, 18-22; Eph. 4, 1-6 reden für mich beutlich genug. 3m einzelnen

zu zeigen, daß die gewöhnlich für die gegenteilige Behauptung angeführten Schriftstellen (Watth. 5, 23. 24; 10, 32. 33; 18, 15—17; 18, 19; Luk. 9, 26; Joh. 8, 31. 32; Act. 2, 42; Gal. 5, 9; Sph. 4, 1—6; 1 Theff. 5, 22; Amos 3, 3) nicht beweiskräftig sind, dafür reicht die Zeit nicht aus.

"Bir leben in einer Zeit des Indisferentismus, in der alles zur Berseinigung der Kirchen treibt. Lassen wir uns davon nicht angesteckt werden. Berengern wir aber auch die Grenzen der Kirchengemeinschaft nicht über die Schrift hinaus. Seien wir auf der Hut gegen seben wirklichen Unionismus, zersplittern wir aber auch unsere Kraft nicht dadurch, daß wir etwas als Unionismus hinstellen und verurteilen, was nicht wirklich Unionismus ist!"

Jeder konservative Lutheraner wird sich über die klare Berwerfung des Unionismus, die hier stattfindet, freuen. Allerdings können wir nicht mit allem stimmen. Was D. Reu über Gebetsgemeinschaft sagt, ruft unsern Dissensus hervor. Wie können nicht eine so weitgehende Unterscheidung zwischen Gebet im öffentlichen Gottesdienst und bei privatem Zusammensein machen. Außerdem ist es unsere überzeugung, daß die hier zur Rechtsfertigung von Gebetsgemeinschaft mit Andersgläubigen angeführten Sprücke (1 Tim. 2, 5. 6 usw.) keine solche Rechtsertigung enthalten. Unsere Auptsbeweisstellen gegen solche Gebetsgemeinschaft, wie Köm. 16, 17, sind hier nicht genannt. Wenn freilich die vom geehrten Versasser niedergelegten Prinzipien befolgt werden, wird es nach unserer Weinung nicht viele Fälle von Gebetsgemeinschaft geben, wo unsere Praxis von der seinigen absweichen wird.

Der Sat "Wer die Absolutheit des Autoritätsanspruchs der Schrift und die Eindeutigkeit ihrer Aussagen in bezug auf alle Jundamentallehren theosretisch wie praktisch anerkennt, muß allem Unionismus gram sein" erfordert eine kurze Bemerkung. Das Gesagte darf nicht beschränkt werden auf Jundamentallehren. Zu unserer Freude können wir mitteilen, daß bei der mündlichen Besprechung D. Reu erklärte, er wolle mit obigem Sat durchaus nicht die Verdindlichkeit der Nichtsundamentallehren leugnen.

In bezug auf die von D. Reu genannten Nichtfundamentallehren (siehe oben "Lehre vom Antichrist — Berechtigung des Zinsnehmens") halten wir allerdings dafür, daß eine Abweichung darin von unserer Stellung nicht notwendigerweise kirchentrennend ist, müssen aber hinzusügen, daß wir, da Gottes Bort über jene Punkte geredet hat, keinem das Necht zugestehen können, hierüber irgendeine beliebige Weinung zu hegen.

Schließlich ein Wort über den Satz: "Die Meinung, daß die, welche in Kirchengemeinschaft miteinander leben wollen, in allen Lehrpunkten übereinstimmen müßten, ruht auf einem versehrten Berständnis von 1 Kor. 1, 10 und andern Schriftaussagen." Dieser Ausspruch könnte migverstanden werden; denn Gott fordert unbedingt übereinstimmung in allen Lehrpunkten. Damit ist nicht ausgeschlossen, daß man mit den Schwachen Geduld haben muß.

### Book Review - Literatur

All books reviewed in this periodical may be procured from or through Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

Das Buch bes betenben Gottesknechts. Der Pfalmen zweiter Teil. Für Freunde und Berächter ber Bibel ausgelegt von Rudolf Abramowsti, Lic. theol. 1939. Calwer Bereinsbuchhandlung Stuttgart. 263 Seiten 6×9.

Der Calmer Berlagsberein hat es unternommen, eine Erläuterung alttefta= mentlicher Schriften unter bem Ramen "Die Botichaft bes Alten Teftaments" herauszugeben, und ber uns borliegenbe Band ift ber fünfzehnte biefer Serie. Er bietet feine fortlaufenbe Eregefe, fonbern eine überfetung mit Anmertungen bon mehr als ber Safte bes Bfalters in amei großen Abteilungen: "I. Der Gottes= fnecht in ber Unfechtung: II. Der Gottestnecht in ber Bemahrung." Rur ben Theologen ift ber brauchbarfte Teil bes Buches bie übersetungen und bie Sinweise auf die Barallelftellen, die besonders bei ber Borbereitung auf die Bredigt gute Dienfte leiften tonnen. Die Auslegung tragt faft burchweg ben Charafter er= baulicher Betrachtungen, Die gum groken Teil febr wertboll finb. Der Berfaffer bertritt im gangen bie meffianische Auffaffung ber Pfalmen, bie in ber lutherifchen Rirche als folche anertannt find, 3. B. 16, 40, 69, 22, leiber aber nicht immer mit ber Bestimmtheit, Die wir erwarten. Bum 69. Pfalm bemertt er g. B .: "Bufam= men mit bem 22. Pfalm hat er bie Farben gur Ausgestaltung und ben Beweis für bie Schriftgemagheit, bas beift, bie Gottgewolltheit bes Leibens 3Gfu, ge= geben." (6. 98.) Und in ben Bemerfungen jum 22. Pfalm wird gefagt: "Diefes tief ergreifenbe Lieb, in bem fich bas Leiben bes Menichen mit bem Leiben Chrifti vermählt" ufm. Das ift in beiben Fällen ju ichwach gerebet. Das Reue Tefta= ment weift tlar nach, bag biefe Bfalmen im ftrengften Sinne meffianifch find, bag ber Erlofer in ihnen felber rebet, und biefe Tatfache follte flar und beutlich jum Ausbrud tommen. Aber Berichtigungen Diefer Art laffen fich leicht anbringen, und bas Buch hat für jeden Bibelforicher großen Bert. B. G. Rregmann

Courageous Adventures. Old Testament Stories for Boys and Girls. By Laura Hulda Wild, professor of Biblical Literature, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass. The Abingdon Press, New York. 144 pages, 5½×7½, including Bible-passage references, recommended books, and outline maps. Price, \$1.00.

The Rev. Laura Hulda Wild, professor of Biblical literature at Mount Holyoke College since 1917, previously instructor of the Bible in Nebraska and Ohio colleges, four years pastor in a Lincoln, Nebr., Congregational church, Y. W. C. A. secretary, visiting professor to Ginling College for women at Nanking, China, there teaching the Bible [cf. Modernism in Foreign Missions!], twice tourist student in Palestine, author of several books on Bible-study, etc., acceding to the requests of her former students, now blessed with children, wrote Courageous Adventures "to supply growing boys and girls with a book that contains a point of view toward the Bible, interests them in things Biblical before they attend college, preserves for them the spiritual values of the Bible-stories, and keeps American youth from the mistake of looking upon Bible-stories as mere fanciful folk-tales." To her, Bible-stories certainly are

not fanciful folk-tales, though also not God's inspired Word; but they arose (from ca. 900 B.C. down) when men advanced and grew out of the childish notions about their gods and so found the true God. "That took a long time, and we have not found out all about Him yet." (Foreword, p. 18.) However, the Bible-stories very plainly demonstrate the development of conscience over against greed (culminating at last in Christ's own supreme conscience response). The Bible-stories of course are not true as history, but certainly as parables, exemplifying the development of man's truth and probity consciousness. Moses did not see a burning bush but a bush of sheer beauty, after his prolonged solitude in the wilderness had made him antioppression-minded. The Balaam's ass story (parallels, Arabian Nights, Wonder Tales of Egypt, etc.) illustrates the truth that man, blinded by greed, can see less clearly the morally prescribed path than can a beast. Witches are very fascinating (cf. Hallowe'en) and the witch-of-Endor tale shows us how Saul, for his selfish ends, goes back in the end on all that is good and true, even his own laws. The David stories (David, very much like Robin Hood, a brave, generous, rollicking adventurer) teach us goodness, unselfishness, generosity (above all, his poems, e.g., Ps. 23: "Even should I go my way in a ravine dark as the shadow of death," Macdonald's translation, quoted by authoress). The Jonah and the big-fish story (the big fish stands for some great calamity) reveals how at last Jews began to understand that God loves everybody, even their enemies, and so prepares the way for Jesus' teachings in the New Testament. While we do not recommend the purchase of this book to our readers, we nevertheless believe that every so often our pastors ought to go to the public library and discover for themselves how assiduously Modernists are systematically, psychologically, irreparably, pounding to pieces the Christian faith of boys and girls of high-school and college days by such destructive methods as Miss Wild offers in her new book. No orthodox Christian minister can afford to remain ignorant of the subtle, most effective technique used by Bible foes today to blast from the hearts of our Christian youth the true faith of their fathers. The ability to defeat Modernism presupposes a fair knowledge of its strategy, and it is for this reason that we pastors and teachers dare not ignore such grotesque writings as Courageous Adventures. J. Theodore Mueller

Der Brief an die hebraer. Betrachtungen von Erwin Reisner. Chr.-Raifers-Berlag, München. 1938. 300 Seiten 6×9.

Jeber sorgfältige Bibelleser weiß, daß der Sebräerbrief ein eigenartiges Buch ift. über dem Bersasser und den ersten Lesern liegt ein tieses Dunkel, das troß außerordentlicher, ausgedehnter und scharssinger Forscherarbeit immer noch nicht gewichen ist. Unser Autor hat gewiß recht, wenn er sagt: "Die Gedanken des Briefes sind paulinsch" (S. 5); ebenso werden aber wohl auch die meisten Leser ihm beistimmen, wenn er fortsährt: "Der Stil aber weicht so sem dem dem andern großen Briefe des Apostels ab, daß dieser mindestens als unmittelbarer Autor kaum in Frage kommt." Können wir mit dem Bersasser geben, wenn er den Titel "An die hebräer" symbolisch erklärt, als habe das Wort "Gebräer" hier seine etymologische Bedeutung: die hinüberziehenden oder Vorzüberziehenden? Raum. So etwas wird den Bätern, die dem Buch diesen Titel

gaben, schwersich in den Sinn gekommen sein. Daß der Brief an die Gemeinde zu Jerusalem gerichtet wurde, halten wir allerdings auch für eine versehlte Konsjektur. Th. Zahn war der Meinung, der Brief sei für eine als Judenchristen beskehde Gemeinde in Rom bestimmt gewesen. Gine andere Ansicht ist, daß der Titel etwa um das Jahr 200 über den Brief gesett wurde und auf einem Missverständnis beruht, indem man aus dem Inhalt des Briefes meinte erschließen zu können, daß das Schreiben an besehrte Juden gerichtet sei, daß aber eigentlich weder Judenchristen noch Heidendristen speziell angeredet würden, sondern Chrissen im allgemeinen.

Im vorliegenden Bert werden einleitende Fragen nicht bes langeren erörtert; auch auf grammatische Puntte wird nicht biel eingegangen. Es ift bem Ber= faffer barum zu tun, die Gedanken des Briefes padend barzuftellen und auch die Anwendung nicht zu berfaumen. Die Darftellung ift in ber Tat angiebenb. Bas wir ju tabeln haben, ift die Theologie des Berfaffers. Er tommt mit allerlei mertwürdigen Boraussegungen an ben Brief beran und findet biefe barin beftätigt. Offenbar fagt ihm die Theologie Rarl Barths gu. Wir finden g. B. biefen Ausspruch: "Für ben Apoftel ift immer ,heute' ber Jungfte Tag" (S. 22); und biefen: "Ber aber an ber Schwelle gur Ewigfeit, angefichts ber Entscheibung, bor bie ihn bas Seute bes Chriftus ftellt, verfagt, wer ba nicht jugreift, fur ben wird bas heraflitifche Bort gur furchtbaren Bahrheit, ber wird fortgeschwemmt, ber tommt niemals wieber in eine ahnliche Lage; benn bie Beit, für bie er fich in ber Abweisung ber Gnabe entscheibet, ift ja felbft bas Riemals" (S. 21). Das ift Rrifistheologie. Synergiftifch-pelagianifch lauten biefe Sage über Rap. 6, 4 ff .: "Bir ichagen fie [biefe Stelle] . . . als ein flares Bort, mit bem uns gefagt wird, bag es gulegt eben boch auf bie Entscheibung bes Menschen antommt. Der Menich tann bie fich ihm barbietenbe Gnabe gurudweisen, er tann ja ober nein fagen, er tann aus eigenem Entichluß abfallen" (S. 109). Allerbings tann ber Menich aus eigenem Entichluß nein fagen; aber mit bem Jafagen berhalt es fich anbers.

über Christi Wert sinden sich manche schöne Sätze. Wir zitieren einen dabon: "Das" [nach Jer. 31 den Christen] "ins Serz geschriebene Geset ist kein Leistungsgeset, sondern ein Glaubensgeset, nämlich das Geset des Glaubens, der da glaubt, daß der eingeborne Sohn Gottes alles geleistet und das ganze Geset erfüllt hat" (S. 215). Sigentümlich ist die Anschauung, daß das Bott Israel des Alten Testaments ein "Gleichnis" für die gesamte Menscheit seit (S. 36). Was der Berkasser jagen zu wollen scheint, ist, daß das Israel des Alten Bundes ein Thpus des neutestamentlichen Gottesvoltes gewesen sei. Darin stimmen wir ihm natürlich det. Die Einstellung des Wertes ist reformiert, wie aus diesem Satz ersichtlich ist: "Der Kulthandlung [das ist, dem heiligen Abendemahl] kommt jetz nur noch die Bedeutung einer Gedächtnisseier zu" (S. 201). Richt selten bekommt man den Eindruck, daß mehr geistreiche Betrachtung als wahre Schristauslegung gedoten wird.

Luthers Lehre von ben zwei Reichen. Untersucht von seinem Berftändnis der Bergpredigt aus. Ein Beitrag zum Problem "Gesetz und Evangelium". Bon Harold Diem. Chr.-Raiser-Berlag. München. 173 Seiten 6×9. Kartoniert. Preis: RM. 3.50.

Diese bortreffliche Schrift läßt Luther die Frage beantworten, ob die Answeisungen und Forderungen ber Bergpredigt für alle Christen berbinblich sind. Die römische Lehre ift, daß es fich hier nicht um praecepta, sonbern um consilia

handelt, beren Befolgung bie monchische Beiligfeit guftanbe bringt. Anbere behaupten, bag "als echter Prophet Befus fich nicht um bie Doglichfeit einer Berwirflichung, nicht um die Brauchbarfeit bes Gebots fümmerte". (S. 20.) Die Biebertäufer und andere Schwarmer halten biefe Unweifungen wohl für ber: binblich, "fallen aber ju febr auf bie rechte Seite und lebren, man folle nichts Eigenes haben, nicht fchworen, nicht Obrigfeit noch Bericht halten, nicht fcuten noch verteibigen ufm." (Weimarer Ausgabe 32, 300 f. St. Louifer Ausgabe 7. 349), und geben also auch mit felbftermahlten Beiligfeiten, mit monchischen Berten, um. Der Teufel richtet burch fie "faliche gute Werte und erdichtete Beilig= feit an" (1. c.). Da unterrichtet nun Luther Die Chriften aus Gottes Bort, bag fie Burger in zwei Reichen find, bag fie als Burger bes gottlichen, geiftlichen Reiches alles Unrecht leiben, aber als Burger bes weltlichen Reiches bem Unrecht wehren muffen. Quther fagt ben aufrührerifden Bauern: "Bollt ibr nun gott= lich Recht halten, wie ihr ruhmet, wohlan, fo tut's. Da ftebet's, Gott fpricht: "Die Rache ift mein, ich will vergelten." (2B. A. 18, 308. St. 2. 16, 55.) Gott hat aber auch die Obrigfeit und anderes weltliches Regiment eingesett und bem Chriften als Burger, als Amtstrager im weltlichen Reich, geboten, bem Bofen gu wehren. Diem fagt: "Der Chrift barf nun einmal nicht qua Chrift bas Gebot ber Bergpredigt (,Richtet nicht!') außer Rraft feten. Gin anberes ift feine Exifteng im ,Mmt'. Da muß er fogar richten und bem übel widerfteben. Gin anderes ift feine Egifteng als "Berfon". Da muß er fich bas Richten berboten fein laffen." (S. 94.) Seite 90: "Bas ferner bie ju leiftenben ,officia omnis generis' betrifft, fo gibt es ba tein Druden bon irgendeinem obrigfeitlichen Amt. Luther: Darum, wenn bu fieheft, bag es an Genter, Buttel, Richter, herren und Fürften mangelt und bu bich geschidt fandeft, follft bu bich bagu erbieten und barum werben, auf bag ja bie nötige Gewalt nicht berachtet und matt murbe ober unterginge.' (28. A. 11, 254 f. St. Q. 10, 387.) Gine berartige Amtsübernahme ichließt ja feine Untreue gegenüber bem perfonlichen Chriftenftand in fich. ,Denn in bem Fall gingeft bu einher gang in frem bem Dienft und Berten. . . . Denn für bich felbft bleibft bu an bem Ebangelium und baltft bich nach Chrifti Bort, baß bu gern ben anbern Badenftreich leibeft ufm. Alfo gehet's bann beibes fein miteinanber, bag bu jugleich Bottes Reich und ber Belt Reich genugtuft außerlich und innerlich, jugleich übel und Unrecht leibeft und boch übel und Unrecht ftrafeft; jugleich bem abel nicht wiberfteheft und boch wiberfteheft. Denn mit bem einen fieheft bu auf bich und auf bas Deine, mit bem andern auf ben Rachften und auf bas Seine' (1. c.) - hier geht's nach bem Glauben, bort nach ber Liebe." - Berbinden aber die Gebote ber Bergpredigt ben Chriften, bedingungslos und in bollftem Dage, muß ba ber Chrift nicht bergweifeln? Er bat ja taufendmal bas Bebot "Richtet nicht" uim. übertreten. Gewiß; nun aber belehrt uns Quther, bag bas Befet bagu gegeben ift, bag es ben Menichen gum Bergtveifeln bringe und ber Chrift in bas Evangelium getrieben werbe, um bann in ber Rraft bes Evangeliums bie Gebote immer beffer ju erfullen. Und bies, bie Lehre bom Unterschied bes Befeges und bes Ebangeliums, wird in unferm Buchlein an ber Sand bon Luthers Schriften fein bargelegt. - Trefflich find auch bie Ausführungen über bie Aufgabe ber Obrigfeit und bie Pflicht ber Untertanen. "Gott hat bas weltliche Regiment ber Bernunft unterworfen und befohlen, weil es nicht ber Seelen beil noch ewiges Gut, fonbern allein leibliche und zeitliche Guter regieren foll." (2B. A. 51, 243. St. 2. 5, 857.) Ferner: "Oberfeit foll nicht mehren, mas jebermann lehren und glauben will, es fei Evangelium ober Lügen; ift genug, bak fie

Aufruhr und Unfrieden ju lehren wehrt." (28. A. 18, 298. St. Q. 16, 50.) "Das ift Luthers Stellung: Die Obrigteit, auch mo fie in driftlichen Sanben ift, regiert nicht über bie Bemiffen; wohl aber muß fie allen Abergriffen in ihr Reich um ber weltlichen Ordnung willen wehren; und folde übergriffe liegen bort bor, wo Regerei jum Aufruhr und ju öffentlicher Lafterung wirb." (S. 76.) - Der Chrift gehorcht auch ben ,wunderlichen herren' und wird feinem Unwillen niemals rebolutionierenbermeife Luft machen. . . . Bu einem aggreffiben rebolutionaren Biberftand fieht Luther auch bei Cbangeliumsberfolgung feine biblifch begrunbete Möglichteit." (S. 94.) - "Aber voerfluchet sey aller gehorsam ynn abgrund der helle, so der oberkeit, vater und mutter, ja auch der kirchen gehorsam ist, das er Gott ungehorsam sei. . . . Hie kenne ich widder [weder] vater, mutter, freundschafft, oeberkeit oder Christliche Kirche." (28. 24.) - Bom Rrieg fagt Luther: "Wer Rrieg anfängt, ber ift unrecht, und ift billig, daß der geschlagen oder doch julegt gestraft werde, ber am erften bas Meffer judt." Der Rotfrieg aber, "ber aus Rot und 3mang wird aufgebrungen, nachbem er ift bon einem andern angegriffen", ift berechtigt; und ber, ber mit gutem Gemiffen fich ju einem Rotfrieg berechtigt glaubt, foll alfo beten: "Lieber Berr, mein Gott, bu fiebeft, bag ich muß friegen, wollt's ja gerne laffen; aber auf bie rechte Urfache baue ich nicht, fondern auf beine Gnade und Barm= herzigfeit." (2B. A. 19, 645 ff. St. Q. 10, 513 ff.) - Bom "driftlichen Rreugzug" fagt Luther: "Aber über alles bewegte mich, bag man unter chriftlichen Ramen wider die Turfen gu ftreiten bornahm, lehrte und reigte, gerade als follte unser Bolf ein Seer der Chriften heißen wider die Türken, als wider Chrifti Feinde, welches ift ftrads wiber Chrifti Lehre und Ramen." (2B. A. 30, II, 111. St. L. 20, 2113.) — Ift Luther verantwortlich für bas landesherrliche Kirchenregiment? Und war er gar "ein Fürftenfnecht"? Unfer Buchlein lagt Luther barauf antworten. "Satan pergit esse Satan. Sub papa miscuit ecclesiam politiae, sub nostro tempore vult miscere politiam ecclesiae. Sed nos resistemus, Deo favente, et studebimus pro nostra virili vocationes distinctas servare." (Enders XV. 256.) "Best fehrt fich bas Blatt um. Denn man macht aus dem Fauftamt ein mündlich Umt, und wollen die weltlichen herren bas geiftliche Regiment führen und ben Bredigtftuhl und Rirche regieren, baß ich predigen foll, mas ber Fürft gern hört." (28. A. 46, 737. St. 2. 7, 1791.) Und: "Wir muffen bas Ronfiftorium gerreigen; benn wir wollen furgum bie Juriften und Papft nicht brinnen haben." (2B. A. T. R. 6, 344. St. Q. 22, 1511.)

Unser Autor hat fleißig in Luther gelesen und im großen und ganzen gut gelesen. Th. Engelber

Preparing Preachers to Preach. By R. Ames Montgomery, D. D., LL. D., professor of Homiletics, Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Chicago. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 249 pages, 5½×7¾. Price, \$1.75.

Here is a book which we recommend to our pastors for careful reading, not merely because the subject of sermon-making requires persistent study throughout their ministerial career and in this work various authors ought to be considered, but because the volume before us presents the subject in a novel, striking, and thorough manner, well adapted to the needs of our time. Dr. Montgomery, a conservative Presbyterian theologian, advocates a return to such preaching as was in vogue when ministers and congregations were still Christian and rever-

enced the Gospel. Today preaching has been eclipsed by the prodigious influence of the "new science" and affected by present-day "mechanistic psychology," so that now "the Bible must be restored to a place of authority in preaching, from which it fell when we got rid of an inspired Book" (p. 23). Today also more than ever "personality values must be given primary consideration when young men are enrolled as candidates for the Gospel ministry" (p. 21). Lastly, "preaching must recover the power of appeal" (p. 26). Preaching must be textual, and to this end the pastor's constructive study must be carried on regularly and systematically. Much of what the author writes will not be new to our readers, but the entire presentation is new, fascinating, and convincing. New material, however, is offered in these chapters: "The Minister's Study," "What Is Effective Preaching?" "The Warrant for Preaching," "The Preparation of the Preacher," "The Inspiration of the Preacher," "The Preparation of the People." Other chapters are: "The Eclipse and Relumination of Preaching," "The Text," "What to Observe in the Use of the Text," "The Sermon Subject," "The Introduction of the Sermon," "The Sermon," "The Conclusion," "Essential Homiletic Qualities of a Good Sermon," "Style," "Species, or Types, of Sermons." In short, here is an old, experienced professor of homiletics, a representative of the "old school," who nevertheless in a new, understanding way tells our present generation of ministers what preachers of the Gospel really should do to be faithful to their holy task. The very fact that a non-Lutheran has written the book makes it all the more interesting. We have heard that in many circles in our Church because of the prevailing depression salaries, which render it almost impossible for individual ministers to purchase new books, "reading clubs" have been organized in which book expenses are pooled and the burden is thus made light. Afterwards, in outstanding cases, books, annotated by critical brethren, are thoroughly discussed at conferences, usually under the guidance of a brother offering a formal, lengthy book review. The plan is excellent, and Dr. Montgomery's book is worthy of such study. J. THEODORE MUELLER

The Son of God Rides On. Outlines on the Gospels of the Ancient Church. By R. E. Golladay, A. M., D. D. The Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, O. 391 pages, 5½×75. Price, \$1.75.

Much painstaking and careful work has gone into the making of this volume, presenting an abundance of sermon material on the familiar Gospel-lessons of the ancient Church. Using this material will help the preacher to present in a fresh way the old well-known Gospel pericopes.

We suggest that the preacher first carefully study his text and then read what Golladay presents and use the material in the preacher's own outline. The pericope Matt. 20:1-16, for instance, is treated by Golladay under the heading of "Work and Wages" and ends with the question, "What kind of worker in God's kingdom am I? are you?" The scope of this pericope is that salvation is not by merit but by grace. To this Golladay calls attention, but his treatment of the text does not make this fact stand out, and his climax in the conclusion puts the emphasis where it does not belong. What the hearer ought

to carry away is not the thought what kind of a worker he is, but that, though a miserable sinner, a gracious salvation has been provided for him. On page 194 Golladay says: "It has always been true, it is now true, and it always will be true, that many resist, and finally resist, this threefold work of the Holy Spirit. For this sin there is no forgiveness, Matt. 12:31; Heb. 10:26, 27." The sin which cannot be forgiven is the sin against the Holy Ghost, but the description given by Golladay does not describe the sin against the Holy Ghost. To the text Matt. 22:1-14 Golladay gives this heading, "Why God Chooses Only a Few." On pages 345 and 346 we read such statements as these: "He gave man the power of choice. He permits man to exercise his power of choice. . . . "God's process of choosing men is in reality a process of human self-elimination. Some do not care. Some keep on putting off. Some become antagonistic. Some are too well satisfied with their own condition, their own acquirements, so that, while pretending to come, they are never qualified as guests at the feast. . . . Those who are finally chosen are those who (a) have accepted God's invitation, (b) come to God's own feast, (c) allowed God to qualify them by acceptance of His own proffered gifts." We are somewhat surprised that such synergistic statements are still being printed at a time when we had reason to believe that the synergistic doctrine of man's salvation had been abandoned as unscriptural by the church-body of which the author is

Wonderful — and Other Sermons. By William Ashley Sunday. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 126 pages, 5¼×8. Price, \$1.00.

Billy Sunday was a Fundamentalist preacher, who in his own way and often with drastic emphasis preached sin and grace. This appears also in the present volume, which has all the excellencies—and the faults—that characterized the evangelist's preaching. Some of his illustrations are dignified and fitting, others are on a lower level. The author does not regard Baptism as a means of grace. On account of the lack of a thorough theological training the author is guilty of other lapses and inaccuracies, for which the charitable reader will make allowances, as when he has no earthquake in connection with the resurrection of our Savior.

P.E. Kretzmann

The Implications of Public Confession. By Abraham Kuyper, D.D., LL.D. Translated from the Dutch by Henry Zylstra. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. 88 pages, 5½×7¾. Price, 75 cts.

Some of Dr. Kuyper's books, like Women of the Old Testament and Women of the New Testament, have been warmly welcomed, also in Lutheran circles. The present book does not have such a general appeal. It is a typically Reformed presentation of the way of reception into church-membership. Many portions are definitely anti-Lutheran and not in accordance with Holy Scripture. The author is opposed to the Lutheran rite of confirmation and presents his views in statements

which are worthy of consideration, even if one does not admit the correctness of the logical deductions which the author draws. He states: "If a term is necessary, therefore, we could name the 'receiving' the 'admission to making public confession.' This preliminary examination may never represent anything more than the vestibule through which one passes to public confession. Not the 'being received' but the 'public confession' represents the holy and decisive moment for the great decision of your life. . . . But there are those who would not have it so. These wanted the event of 'receiving' to represent a touching and exciting ceremony. Hence this event was converted into what the Lutherans had long made of it. The pastor and the elder 'took' the confession. Later the Church 'confirmed' it." (P.59 f.) While the arguments of the author will not hold, there is much in its presentation that might well be kept in mind by the Lutheran pastor who tries to keep the work of indoctrination from degenerating into a mere form.

P. E. KRETZMANN

Prayer-Meetings that Made History. By Basil Miller. 104 pages, 5×7½.

The Warner Press, Anderson, Ind. Price, \$1.00.

The author tells of fourteen remarkable fulfilments of prayer, changing the life of individuals, inaugurating world-wide missionary or charitable movements, etc. Many of these interesting and faith-strengthening results of prayer may be used by the pastor in the pulpit, in his Bible class, or on other occasions. Not all movements, however, described by the author were unmitigated blessings. Faith in their Savior and His promises prompted the prayers of these people, and Christ heard them. But in only too many instances the erroneous views held by them caused them to undo much of the good that Christ would have accomplished through them had they followed His Word exclusively instead of permitting their own mistaken notions to influence their actions.

#### NOTICE TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

In order to render satisfactory service, we must have our current malling-list correct. The expense of maintaining this list has been materially increased. Under present regulations we are subject to a "fine" on all parcels mailed to an incorrect address, inasmuch as we must pay 2 cents for every notification sent by the postmaster on a parcel or periodical which is undeliverable because no forwarding address is available or because there has been a change of address. This may seem insignificant, but in view of the fact that we have subscribers getting three or more of our periodicals and considering our large aggregate subscription list, it may readily be seen that it amounts to quite a sum during a year; for the postmaster will address a notification to each individual periodical. Our subscribers can help us by notifying us—one notification (postal card, costing only 1 cent) will take care of the addresses for several publications. We shall be very grateful for your cooperation.

Kindly consult the address label on this paper to ascertain whether your subscription has expired or will soon expire. "Nov 39" on the label means that your subscription has expired. Please pay your agent or the Publisher promptly in order to avoid interruption of service. It takes about two weeks before the address label can show change of address or acknowledgment of remittance.

When paying your subscription, please mention name of publication desired and exact name and address (both old and new, if change of address is requested).

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE, St. Louis, Mo.